

FRIENDS OF GUEST HOUSE

{ NORTHERN VIRGINIA }



helping reentering women & their families since 1974

Friends of Guest House helps women successfully reenter the community from incarceration. In Northern Virginia, where we work, Guest House is the **only** group providing reentry support that is *both* comprehensive (including a 24/7 Residential Program) *and* tailored to women's unique needs.

Guest House was founded in 1974 by Betty McConkey, a Federal parolee. Since then, we have served more than 3,000 women; most of those women are mothers, and reentry support always helps their children, too.



"A safe place": Residents gather for dinner at Guest House.

And we're expanding! The expansion started this June, to increase the number of women served each year from 190 in FY2016 to 260–300 in FY2018—about a 50% increase.

Guest House is funded by state and local governments, foundations, religious groups, businesses and individuals; member, United Way of the National Capital Area.

how we help

Guest House addresses housing, jobs, healthcare and family/community reconnection: the "four pillars of livability" for post-incarceration women. That comprehensive, intensive approach meets women's unique needs—addresses women's root vulnerabilities—enabling them to break the cycle of crime. We offer three tiers of reentry support:

- 1. Residential:** The most intensive level of support. Up to 26 women at a time live in Guest House-supervised residential facilities, with an average stay of three months.
- 2. Aftercare:** Continued support to clients who have moved from the Residential Program and are negotiating the challenges of independent living. Aftercare lasts about nine months. In total, the Residential-to-Aftercare Program continuum lasts about a year.
- 3. Outreach:** A nonresidential program for women reentering the community directly from incarceration. We meet with women as their release dates approach, telling them about available resources—including our own.

SNAPSHOT: WOMEN OFFENDERS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

- 80%** Women's crimes are mostly nonviolent.
- 66%** Most incarcerated women are mothers of children under 18.
- over 400** Women now incarcerated (increasing).
- over 1,300** Women now on community supervision through probation & parole (increasing).

WHAT BREAKS THE CYCLE OF CRIME? REENTRY SUPPORT

- 70%** Recidivism rate (two years), without reentry support.
- under 10%** Recidivism rate (two years), Guest House graduates.
- an investment in our future** Reentry support protects our future. Studies show: helping reentering mothers today helps stop their children from becoming the next generation behind bars.

REENTRY SUPPORT SAVES TAX DOLLARS, TOO

- \$25,000 to \$65,000 recurring cost** To incarcerate one person for one year in Virginia ("recurring" when the cycle continues: re-offense, return to incarceration, multiyear sentences).
- about \$12,500 one-time cost** To provide reentry support to one woman for one year through Guest House ("one-time" because the cycle is broken and Guest House women become law-abiding community members).

Spanning those programs, we provide case management, mental health and substance abuse counseling, life skills training—and direct help or community referrals for healthcare, education, vocational training, job placement, housing, emergency needs (food, shelter, etc.), child custody and, generally, navigating the post-incarceration environment in constructive ways. We offer a Speakers Bureau, featuring our clients as speakers. We also assist women who are justice-involved but not themselves incarcerated: for example, women with a spouse or other family member in jail.



“People believe in you”: Guest House helped Jenny become a responsible, self-reliant member of the community. Today, she manages a pet daycare.

recognitions & awards

Guest House is a recognized resource on incarcerated and reentering women’s issues. Executive Director Kari Galloway formerly chaired the Focus Area Committee on Women’s Re-Entry of the statewide Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council. Guest House recognitions include:



- › Selected as one of the **Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington’s** “best smaller charities” (2007–2008, 2011–2012, 2015–2016)
- › Received **Virginia House of Delegates** commendation, H.R. 171: “an expression of the House of Delegates’ admiration and respect for the organization’s commitment to helping women re-enter society” (February 2013)
- › **Caron Organization’s** Organizational Advocacy Award (2010)
- › **Washington Area Women’s Foundation** Leadership Award (2009)
- › **Alexandria INOVA Hospital’s** Eureka! Award for Innovation (2008)
- › **Alexandria Gazette Packet’s** Community Service Award (2008)

how you can help

Friends of Guest House, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) public charity: Federal tax ID #51-0201327. Gifts to Guest House are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Cash gifts may be unrestricted or program-specific. Other ways to contribute include volunteering, donating goods and services, and facilitating jobs and housing for our clients. **For more information, please contact Kari Galloway, Executive Director, at director@friendsofguesthouse.org or 703.549.8072. Or visit us on the Web at www.friendsofguesthouse.org.**



(November 2016)

connect & share



DESIGNATE GUEST HOUSE!
United Way #8583 | CFC #69155

“Guest House is an important partner with the Department of Corrections as we seek to increase public safety by transforming lives. The services offered to women at Guest House in areas of housing, case management, mental health, substance abuse and employment are critical to the reentry success of former offenders.”

—**HAROLD W. CLARKE, Director, Virginia Department of Corrections**

“When I came to Friends of Guest House, I couldn’t read or write, never had a job in my life and had been a heroin addict for 27 years. Today I’m general manager of [a pet daycare]. And I owe it all to Guest House. This is a safe place to have people believe in you when you don’t believe in yourself.”

—**JENNY (client)**

“I feel as though the Guest House Outreach program will allow me to become a productive, responsible community member—because I know as long as I stay around the same people, places and things, I will see these jail walls as the rest of my life.”

—**TASHEIKA (client)**

“Guest House is recognized as a resource on incarcerated and ex-offender women’s issues and we are delighted to lend our support to their work. ... All support they can receive will be greatly appreciated as they continue to be the only program of its kind for women in Northern Virginia. The work of Guest House is so critical in today’s world.”

—**VICKIE JOHNSON-SCOTT, Northern Regional Director, Virginia Department of Social Services**

“Women like me—alcoholics, addicts—we don’t grow, we’re kind of stuck. When you get thrown in jail, you’re kind of lucky. You get that help. But after jail, you get thrown back out there and you have no help to prepare yourself to live life on life’s terms. So therefore you go back to your old ways. Guest House helps you dig deep and look at yourself. Without their compassion, without the teachers, without the love that gives us hope, there is no way that anyone who has lived the life that we have lived can grow—can become responsible, loving, caring people. We need your help. Please.”

—**MICHELLE (client)**