



News From ...

FALL 2012

FRIENDS OF GUEST HOUSE

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S ONLY ORGANIZATION SPECIALIZING IN RE-ENTRY ASSISTANCE TO FEMALE EX-OFFENDERS

GRADUATES HONORED

Every year, about a dozen women complete the full Guest House program—from the initial Residential Program through the six-to-nine month Aftercare Program, that is, from the time they leave incarceration to the point where they succeed at community re-entry.

On Aug. 6, 2011, and Oct. 13, 2012, Guest House celebrated the 30 women who had "graduated" during those years, respectively, plus a few earlier graduates unable to attend previous celebrations.

Both graduation exercises took place at the Alexandria Grace Brethren Church, courtesy of Pastor Ken and the congrega-

tion. The events consisted of a processional and recessional, invocation and benediction, welcoming remarks and presentation of certificates. Delivering keynote remarks were Jennifer Male (2011), an Alexandria probation-and-parole officer, and the Honorable Evelyn Queen (2012), a retired D.C. Superior Court judge. As they do every year, the Alexandria Kiwanis Club and The Nugget Jewelers gave each graduate a pair of pearl earrings, symbolizing her journey.



At the 2012 ceremony, Judge Evelyn Queen delivers remarks of praise and encouragement to the graduates (upper right photo) and (photo below) three graduates enjoy their well-earned day.



Innovative Prisoner-Mentoring Program Launched in Arlington

This summer, Friends of Guest House launched "Mentoring Female Prisoners: Pilot Expansion/ Arlington," an innovative effort that is extending our longstanding Mentoring Program to 20 women *before* they are released from incarceration. This is a one-year pilot program; the pilot site is the Arlington County Detention Facility. Participants begin as mentees one or two months pre-release and continue for up to a year post-release (also post-release, the women are clients of the broader Guest House program).

National studies demonstrate

that mentoring decreases re-offense rates by approximately 35 percent. To date, we have been able to offer mentoring only within our three-to-four month Residential Program. If successful, the pre-release pilot will pave the way for the Mentoring Program's expansion.

Guest House thanks our pilot funders: the Arlington Community Foundation, Arlington County's Community Development Fund and the Washington Forrest Foundation. We are also deeply indebted to the pilot's 20 trained mentors, who are donating their time. ♦

GUEST HOUSE: "A VALUABLE SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND THIS COMMONWEALTH"

On May 3, Harold W. Clarke, Director of the Virginia Department of Corrections, and Chief of Corrections Operations A. David Robinson visited Guest House to tour the facility, talk with clients and see our program in action. "I truly enjoyed spending some time with you last week at The Guest House," Director Clarke wrote later. "You and your colleagues are providing a valuable service to your community and this commonwealth. You can count on me doing anything that I can do to be of assistance to you in your labor of love."

PROUD MEMBER OF



United Way
of the National Capital Area

DESIGNATE GUEST HOUSE
UW #8583 | CFC #69155

FRIENDS OF GUEST HOUSE helps non-violent female ex-offenders in Northern Virginia transition from incarceration back into the community.

Guest House is the only organization in Northern Virginia specializing in re-entry assistance to female ex-offenders.

Originally called "Friends of Women Prisoners," Guest House was founded in 1974 (incorporated in 1975) by Betty McConkey, a Federal parolee. Since then, Guest House has served thousands of women; and because services to women also help their children, many thousands of children have benefited, too.

Guest House offers three tiers of service: Residential, Aftercare and Outreach. We also offer a Speakers Bureau. Recently, we began helping "justice-involved" women. We serve about 125 women a year: a third of the 400-plus women on community supervision in Northern Virginia.

Guest House is a recognized resource on incarcerated and ex-offender women's issues. For example, Guest House Executive Director Kari Galloway chairs the Focus Area Committee on Women's Re-Entry of the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Re-Entry Council, established by the governor in 2010.

Our work is funded by state and local government agencies, foundations, religious groups, businesses and individuals. Guest House is a member of United Way of the National Capital Area.

Friends of Guest House, Inc., is an IRS Section 501(c)(3) public charity: Federal tax ID #51-0201327. All gifts to Guest House are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

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Stay connected by email! For eNews, invitations and Guest House announcements, write info@friendsofguesthouse.org—subject line: "Send email updates."



GREATER WASHINGTON CATALOGUE FOR PHILANTHROPY

The Greater Washington Catalogue for Philanthropy selected Guest House as one of its "best smaller nonprofits" for 2011–2012. We are especially proud to be among about 70 charities selected from a field of more than 250. Guest House was previously selected in 2007–2008. View the Catalogue online at www.catalogueforphilanthropy-dc.org. Supporters can also donate to Guest House through the Catalogue.



Student volunteers from St. Agnes and St. Stephen's School, with Guest House Executive Director Kari Galloway (right).

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS: CHURCH MEMBERS, STUDENTS

Every year, Guest House is blessed by numerous volunteer groups. Spring 2012 highlights included the donation by Mount Olivet United Methodist Church (Arlington) of a weekend for building projects, yard work and painting, both at the Guest House in Alexandria and at the Arlington home we run with Wesley Housing Development Corporation. Student volunteers from St. Agnes and St. Stephen's School (Alexandria) provided additional help with painting and yard work—twice!

NEW JOB-TRAINING PROGRAM: TOGETHER WE BAKE

To begin in January 2013, Together We Bake is a job-training program—with a focus on micro-bakeries—that will give graduates skills, experience and certifications to work in Northern Virginia's food service industry. Trainees will be Guest House clients. Alexandrians Tricia Sabatini and Stephanie Wright came up

with the idea and will run the program. The program's pilot will launch in January, and we plan to roll out the full, expanded program next fall. Learn more at www.togetherwebake.org.

SPRING2ACTION RAISES MORE THAN \$4,500

Thanks to all who gave to Guest House via ACT for Alexandria's online fundraiser, Spring2Action, held this year on May 2. We raised more than \$4,500, including a \$1,000 matching grant from the Mason Hirst Foundation.

CHILI COOK-OFF BENEFITS GUEST HOUSE

Proceeds from the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Annual Chili Cook-Off, held in January this year, were split between Friends of Guest House and the church's youth group. Guest House residents not only attended but also competed—and won the prize for Best Overall Chili. Good Shepherd is located just down the street from Guest House.



Guest House clients, staff and volunteers enjoy Good Shepherd's Chili Cook-Off.

BOARD MEMBER RACHEL LUSTIG: "CATHOLIC WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

The National Catholic Reporter recently named Guest House Board Vice Chair Rachel Lustig one of "12 Catholic women under 40 making a difference." Rachel is Senior Vice President of Mission and Ministry at Catholic Charities and was honored for her social activism, both professionally and as a volunteer. Rachel joined the Guest House Board in 2011. Read more at nronline.org.

SUPPORTER PROFILE

Paul Haire: "Hiring Ex-Offenders Makes Good Sense"

Friends of Guest House is proud to salute one of our best business supporters: Your Dog's Best Friends. Located in Alexandria's Del Ray neighborhood, YDBF was established in 2003 and offers services such as cageless "doggie daycare," grooming and training for its canine clientele.

During YDBF's first years, a woman in the same neighborhood was also getting established: in this case, rebuilding her life. After 27 years of heroin addiction, illiteracy, unemployment, (nonviolent) crime and repeat incarceration, Jennifer McDaniel was a client at Guest House. However, no one would hire her due to her criminal past. Guest House contacted YDBF's owner, Paul Haire, as a potential employer. Unlike so many others, Paul said "yes." Jenny started as a dog washer. She proved herself and moved up. For the past two years, she has been YDBF's general manager. "She's a smart woman with a lot of common sense, a lot of drive, a lot of gratitude," says Paul. "She is just unrelenting in terms of wanting to make her life work."

Paul went on to hire nearly 20 other Guest House graduates, some still on staff. He also hires ex-offenders through Virginia CARES. Finally, Paul and the YDBF team hold charity dog washes: four have benefited Guest House.

"If a parole officer or prosecutor calls me and says, 'I've got someone who I think can make it if they can just get their feet under themselves,' I will do my best to hire them," says Paul. "I think any company that is looking for long-term employees who will have the motivation and gratitude to settle into the company and learn the company, should understand that they have a huge opportunity. Hiring ex-offenders makes good sense." Learn more about YDBF at www.yourdogsbestfriends.com. ♦



Your Dog's Best Friends' owner, Paul Haire, with Jennifer McDaniel (right): the company's general manager and a Guest House graduate.

SERVICES EXPAND IN FAIRFAX

Guest House services are expanding in Fairfax County! We recently established a satellite office for Outreach Program services in Reston. Our partnership with the Christian Relief Services program, Housing for the Homeless, spans six properties in Fairfax County (see story, "Affordable Housing," right). And we continue to increase both Outreach and Aftercare services as possible in Fairfax.

THANK YOU, COCA-COLA!

On September 4, the Coca-Cola Company—as a special community service—hosted Guest House clients for a "bowl-til-you-drop" night out at U.S. Bowling. Nine Coca-Cola employees and eight Guest House clients made up the festive group. Very special thanks to Coca-Cola's CVS team and event organizer Jane Hess Collins of Get Out and Give Back.



Guest House clients and Coca-Cola Company employees "bowl til they drop"!

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT GUEST HOUSE?

Volunteers provide many services, from office work to client transportation to GED tutoring. To learn more, contact Audrey Stahl, Volunteer Coordinator, at Audrey@friendsofguesthouse.org.



A Guest House volunteer (right) tutors a client preparing to take the GED.

Affordable Housing: New Help, New Stability for Guest House Clients

Virginia is the 11th most expensive state in the nation for rental housing costs, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. In that environment, compounded by the general economic recession and barriers specific to people with criminal records, far too many Guest House clients—women who have completed our Residential Program—are driven to homeless shelters instead of independent living.

Helping those clients find affordable housing has become a top Guest House priority. And we made good progress this year.

With Christian Relief Services (CRS) and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, we opened two group homes in 2011; and in spring 2012, five additional units with CRS came online. All are in Northern Virginia and all are "transitional" residences, for which clients pay sliding-scale rent until they are able to obtain permanent housing in the open market. CRS and Wesley own the properties and serve as landlords. Guest House provides case management and other supportive services. Thanks to these new partnerships, 18 clients (some with children) have roofs over their heads. ♦

YOU CAN HELP: Make a gift!

Friends of Guest House welcomes your support. Here's how to help:

GIVE ONLINE:

› At www.friendsofguesthouse.org.

GIVE BY MAIL:

› Make your check out to "Friends of Guest House" and send it to us at: One East Luray Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301-2025.

GIVE AT WORK:

› Through your employer's matching gift program.
› Or through the annual United Way campaign (Guest House is #8583) or CFC (#69155).

GIVE TO OUR WISH LIST:

› Guest House clients need many "ordinary" items: from paper and pens, to laundry detergent, to Metro subway cards. Visit the "ways to help" page on our website for more information.

Gifts are tax-deductible. To learn more, contact us at info@friendsofguesthouse.org or 703-549-8072. Thank you!



FRIENDS OF GUEST HOUSE

One East Luray Avenue
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NOVEMBER 28: Guest House event

Please join us!

A MAGICAL EVENING FOR GUEST HOUSE

Benefit Reception and Silent Auction

Special Presentation: "The Inspirational
Magic of Andrew Bennett"

Wednesday, November 28

6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The Principle Gallery
208 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia

More information and tickets: 703-261-3941 or event@friendsofguesthouse.org

Silent auction and sponsorship opportunities: Rachel Lustig, Guest House Vice Chair, at rachellustig@yahoo.com

For news, invitations and other announcements—send an email to info@friendsofguesthouse.org (subject: "Send email updates"). We do not share email addresses.

GUEST HOUSE "FRIENDRAISER"



New and old friends enjoy the Guest House fundraiser. Photo, right: Among the guests were Board Vice Chair Rachel Lustig (right), pictured with a resident.



On Friday evening, June 29, we welcomed about 30 people to our first "fundraiser," opening the Guest House doors to show interested community members the important work we do. Two graduates of our program gave moving accounts of their journeys from incarceration to self-reliance. Volunteers shared their experiences, as did staff. We "raised" many friends that night—strengthening our community connections in the broadest ways.