



Friends of
GUEST HOUSE

AUTUMN 2019 NEWSLETTER

TEN WOMEN COMMITTED TO CHANGE GRADUATE FROM FRIENDS OF GUEST HOUSE

Thanks to your support, on Saturday, September 28, 2019, 10 women graduated from the Friends of Guest House program.

Friends and families of the graduates, current clients, alumnae, donors, community supporters, local elected officials, staff and volunteers attended the graduation ceremony.

Each graduate received a certificate, a pair of pearl earrings donated by the Alexandria Kiwanis Club, and a handmade blanket from the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Mary Ehler, representing the Alexandria Kiwanis Club, presented each graduate with her own pair of pearl earrings. It is a partnership and tradition that has continued for 15 years. Mary said, "I saw that [Guest House graduates] were given things they really needed, like grocery gift cards. It bothered me that they didn't have anything that was just special and for them." Thanks to the generosity of the Alexandria Kiwanis Club, every Guest House graduate receives a pair of pearl earrings at graduation.



Ten women graduated from the Friends of Guest House program on September 28, 2019.



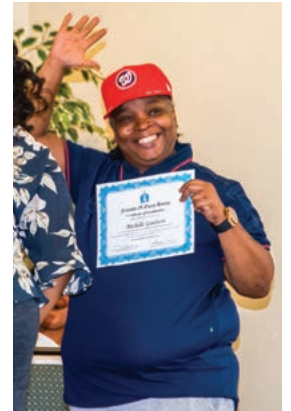
Each Friends of Guest House graduate receives a pair for pearl earrings courtesy of the Alexandria Kiwanis Club. It is a tradition that has continued for 15 years.



Ashley Zola, a 2017 graduate, delivered the alumna message. Ashley reminded the graduates to, "Remember where you came from, but don't ever let it stop you."



Denise Gray, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, presents a blanket to Adonis. Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alexandria make handmade blankets for each Friends of Guest House graduate.



Mick receiving her graduation certificate.

Ashley Zola, a 2017 graduate, delivered the alumna message. Ashley reminded the graduates to, "Remember where you came from, but don't ever let it stop you."

In order to graduate, program participants

must complete the intensive six-month Residential program and nine months of the After-care program.

Congratulations to the 2019 Friends of Guest House graduates!



Dan Mallon, Director of Programs, named Alexandria Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 Honoree.

FRIENDS OF GUEST HOUSE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS NAMED ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 40 UNDER 40 HONOREE

We are honored to share that Friends of Guest House Director of Programs, Daniel Mallon, has been named an Alexandria Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 Honoree. Dan was nominated in honor of

his dedication to Friends of Guest House and the greater Alexandria community, including his seat on the Del Ray Business Association board of directors. Congratulations, Dan!

OUR NEWEST LOCATION IN OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA IS OPEN

Thanks to your support, on October 3, 2019, 20 reentering women moved into Friends of Guest House's newest location in Old Town Alexandria. The former office building was renovated in partnership with HomeAid Northern Virginia and Craftmark Homes. The new home includes:

- One ADA bedroom, previously Friends of Guest House did not have any ADA accessible accommodations;
- One ADA bathroom;
- An on-site computer lab for clients to communicate with their family and to research and apply for jobs;
- Six private bathrooms, a refreshing change of pace for women who've been using communal bathrooms;
- A large kitchen to prepare healthy, dietician approved meals for 20 reentering women;
- Several lounge areas for reading,

relaxing and practicing healthy coping skills.

The cost of the renovations were funded by Craftmark Homes, in-kind contributions from Craftmark's many trade partners, and a loan from the City of Alexandria's Housing Trust Fund.

The cost of furnishings for the house were funded by the Sunshine Lady Foundation, Together Rising, Janet Garber and Kris Keydel, Fernanda Fisher and Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

The opening of this new home increases the capacity of the Residential Program by 15%. Guest House receives nearly 400 applications for its Residential Program every year. Previously, we served 26 reentering women at-a-time for six months, 55-60 total per year. Now, thanks to you, we can serve 30 women at-a-time, for a total of 60-65 reentering women per year.



Friends of Guest House's newest location in Old Town Alexandria is home to 20 women in the Residential Program.



Diane loading the dishwasher at Guest House's newest location, 120 South Payne Street in Alexandria.



Anna has settled into her new bedroom at Guest House's newest location. The former office building was renovated into a home for 20 reentering women.



Jennifer getting ready to start her day. Guest House's newest location includes six private bathrooms, a refreshing change of pace for women who've been using communal bathrooms.



Jennifer and Diane in the resident computer lab at Guest House's newest location. Residents use the computers to research and apply for jobs, communicate with family, and learn the public transportation system in Alexandria.

FRIENDS OF GUEST HOUSE CELEBRATES 45 YEARS OF CHANGING WOMEN'S LIVES

On Thursday, September 5, 2019 Friends of Guest House hosted its 45th Anniversary Celebration featuring BBQ and Bingo. The event was hosted at Guest House's newest location in Old Town Alexandria; more than 160 people attended.

Dinner was provided by MightyMeals (www.eatmighty meals.com) and local singer-songwriter, Emily Henry (www.emilyhenry music.com) provided the evening's entertainment.

Thanks to the generosity of several attendees, many current clients and Guest House alumnae

were able to attend, too.

Since 1974, thanks to supporters like you, Friends of Guest House has helped more than 4,000 women successfully reenter the community from incarceration. Helping women also helps their families. So, thanks to you, Friends of Guest House has also helped more than 5,000 children reunite with the mothers.

The celebration, just like our 45 years of service, was supported by local businesses, City of Alexandria government officials, volunteers, and hundreds of community members.



Laura, Melissa and Erica at Friends of Guest House's 45th Anniversary Celebration. Many lucky winners went home with Bingo Prizes donated by local businesses.



City of Alexandria's Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter (left), Friends of Guest House Program Director Dan Mallon (center) and City of Alexandria Councilwoman Amy Jackson (right) at Friends of Guest House's 45th Anniversary Celebration.



More than 160 people attended Friends of Guest House's 45th Anniversary Celebration on September 5, 2019. The event was held at Guest House's newest location in Old Town Alexandria.

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Penny and Gracie Ashford

Sharon Block and Roger Schwartz

IVY LANE LIVING BRINGS NEW LIFE TO FRIENDS OF GUEST HOUSE'S HEADQUARTERS

On June 12, 2019 Friends of Guest House's headquarters in Del Ray, Alexandria received a refresh and redesign courtesy of Ivy Lane Living.

The interior design company, located in Alexandria, Virginia, updated the common areas at Guest House's original location. The house is home to ten women in the Friends of Guest House Residential Program. Clients use the three rooms Ivy Lane Living redesigned to rest, relax, and unwind from their busy days.

Ivy Lane Living's guiding principle is, "Your home is your sanctuary, a place that nourishes your soul and contributes to your well-being." They certainly created a sanctuary for our clients!

When Neisha, a resident, walked into the newly redesigned space, she said, "God is good, I feel so special."



AFTER



BEFORE

The redesign, by Ivy Lane Living, spanned three rooms — all common areas where clients relax and unwind from their busy days.



AFTER



BEFORE

Ivy Lane Living worked with Friends of Guest House staff for several months ahead of time in order to curate a space that works well for both the clients and the program.

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**“God is good,
I feel so special.”**

**Neisha,
current resident**

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AFTER



BEFORE

In addition to Ivy Lane Living, volunteers from BDO USA, LLP and Volunteer Alexandria painted the three rooms on their community service days.

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GIVING TUESDAY

Save the Date! Tuesday, December 3, 2019 is GivingTuesday. Shannon and Steve Rozner, who serve on our board, have generously offered to match all donations made on Giving Tuesday up to \$4,000. That means every dollar you give is TWO dollars for Friends of Guest House.

GivingTuesday is a global day of giving cele-

#GIVING TUESDAY

brated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Mark your calendar to donate to Friends of Guest House on December 3!