

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we welcome the warmth and renewal of spring, I am delighted to share with you the latest updates and accomplishments from Friends of Guest House during our **50th Anniversary year!**

With the steadfast support of compassionate individuals like you, Friends of Guest House continues to empower women reentering our community from incarceration to rebuild their lives and achieve lasting success. It is through your generosity and dedication that we are able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of so many women and their families.

Over the past few months, we have achieved significant milestones and celebrated inspiring achievements. One of our proudest accomplishments this spring has been the transformative award of **\$2 million from Yield Giving** (see page 3 for more). This generous grant will enable us to expand and enhance our programs and services, providing even greater opportunities for the women we serve to rebuild their lives and thrive. We are incredibly grateful for this tremendous show of support and the profound impact it will have on our organization and the community at large.

As we look ahead to the months to come, we are filled with optimism and excitement for the future of Friends of Guest House. From our Art Show in April to our Half A Century of Hope Gala in June – it's going to be an exciting anniversary year!

Thank you for being a part of our journey and for your ongoing generosity and dedication to our mission. – Sonja, Executive Director

MARK YOUR CALENDARS Spring2Action: **APRIL 24th**

Our community is better when we give together. Spring2Action is our chance to do that together. It's one extraordinary day to celebrate our collective spirit of giving and to support the organizations that make Alexandria a vibrant place for everyone.

On April 24th, we are celebrating 14 years of Spring2Action. Please support Guest House in reaching our **\$75,000 goal!** This unique day of giving is one of the many reasons we feel privileged to be a part of the Alexandria community.

www.spring2action.org/organizations/friends-of-guest-house



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HALF A CENTURY OF HOPE AT GUEST HOUSE

For half a century, Friends of Guest House has been at the forefront of breaking the cycle of incarceration, providing a lifeline for women seeking a second chance. What began as a compassionate response to the needs of a few has blossomed into an organization that has touched the lives of over 5,000 women.

The journey of Friends of Guest House has been one of empowerment, advocacy, and community. Over the years, the organization has evolved to meet the changing landscape of criminal justice, expanding its programs to encompass rehabilitation, education, and workforce development. The success stories of women who have emerged from the shadows of incarceration to rebuild their lives stand as a testament to the enduring impact of Friends of Guest House.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we honor not only the organization's history but also the resilience of the women who have walked through its doors. **The 50th anniversary is a reflection of the collective commitment of staff, volunteers, donors, and the community at large to create a more just and compassionate society.**

The anniversary festivities will be a blend of reflection and inspiration, featuring testimonials from alumnae whose lives have been transformed, acknowledging the dedicated individuals who have been instrumental in the organization's success, and setting the stage for the continued journey towards a future where every woman has the opportunity to thrive.

Join us in commemorating 50 years of impact, 50 years of second chances, and 50 years of building a community where everyone is given the chance to rewrite their story. Together, let's embark on the next chapter of hope, empowerment, and transformation. Happy 50th anniversary, Friends of Guest House!



Upcoming Events

4/24 : Annual Art Show

4/24: Spring2Action 2024

6/6: Half a Century of Hope Gala

9/TBD: 3rd Annual Friends and Family Day

10/ TBD: Graduation





OUR IMPACT REPORT IS OUT

We are pleased to share our annual Impact Report with our community. This year, we are excited to report some wonderful developments within Guest House, including the incorporation of another aftercare unit, robust Peer Support Specialist programming, and began to see our houses full again.

Guest House is incredibly grateful for the generous support given to us by you, our community donors, grantors, and volunteers.

The mission of Guest House would not be possible without your love and commitment to our mission.

Visit friendsofguesthouse.org/2023-impact-report/ to view the full report.

YIELD GIVING



In March 2023, Yield Giving launched an Open Call for community-led, community-focused organizations whose explicit purpose is to enable individuals and families to achieve substantive improvement in their well-being through foundational resources. In total, 6,353 organizations from around the nation participated in this grant process for the opportunity to win a \$1 million award, and after two rounds of consideration, **Guest House** was ultimately recognized as one of the “highest scoring” organizations (out of the 250 chosen award winners) and was instead awarded \$2 million!

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OUR VISION

We envision a world
where your past does
not define your
future.

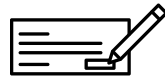


OUR MOST RECENT NEEDS

As we continue to feel the effects of COVID-19, Guest House is in great need of two things: **Food and Essentials.**

Our residential program serves three meals daily to 25-30 residents. Guest House's food budget is \$38,192 (based on average annual food cost). According to the USDA, food prices are predicted to continue to rise in 2023 by roughly 7.1%. Due to increased food costs, Guest House is forecasted to exceed our budget by at least \$10,000 in 2023.

Guest House residents need everything from toothbrushes to underwear to pillows when they arrive. Prior to the pandemic, it was rare that a resident to arrive with nothing. Now unfortunately it is commonplace. Guest House has had to absorb nearly 25,000 in new costs.



DONATE BY MAIL

Return the enclosed remittance envelope with a check



DONATE ONLINE

Use the QR Code to be connected to our online platform, or visit our website at www.friendsofguesthouse.org

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Monthly donors ensure every client receives the tools, education, and second chance she deserves. Use the QR code and make sure to select "Monthly."



STOCK AND IRA

To make a stock/ IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gift, notify your broker/ financial advisor of your intention and Guest House via info@friendsofguesthouse.org.



BEQUESTS BY WILL

Many people choose to leave a legacy gift to Friends of Guest House so they can support second chances for women committed to change with the Legacy they leave behind. All it takes is a quick phone call to your lawyer to add Friends of Guest House as a charitable designation in your will. If you include Friends of Guest House in your plans. Our Legal Name: is Friends of Guest House, Inc., and our Federal Tax ID: 51-0201327.

YIELD GIVING *continued*

This transformative grant from Mackenzie Scott's Yield Giving is a testament to the dedication and impact of our organization over the past five decades. We are deeply grateful for this extraordinary gesture of support that will enable us to strengthen our programs, reach more women in need, and create lasting positive change in our community.

While we are immensely joyful for this generous grant, our work is far from over. **This grant will not solve the problem of the lack of resources and grace available to our women as they reenter our community. But it is a lifesaver.** To be blunt, this transformative gift came at the most opportune time to help make our mission more sustainable for the future. We're grateful for every donation, big and small; it makes a direct difference in the lives of our women.

This grant will allow Guest House the space to reach our long-planned goals that have historically always been out of reach. As we embark on this new journey of development, we want to continue to welcome supporters and donors of all forms into our mission, because it is their belief in Guest House, that has made our goals into a reality. **Our organization has welcomed over 5,000+ women into our programs, and with the continued help of our community, we can transform even more lives in the future.**



Spring2Action, Continued.

Act for Alexandria's Spring2Action 2024 is just around the corner! Guest House was in the **top 3** most successful campaigns last year and we are aiming to continue this incredible growth.

Our goal this year is to raise \$75,000! With these funds, we can continue to support our Peer Support Program, expand our Workforce partnerships, and ensure that residents are well-prepared to start their reentry journeys.

Why support Guest House during Spring2Action?

In Virginia, it costs an average of \$33,680 to incarcerate one person per year: a recurring cost with repeat incarcerations.

The cost to help one woman for one year at Guest House is \$7,500: a one-time cost, because over 85% of our graduates never return to incarceration and, in fact, get jobs and become taxpayers.

Scan the QR code to learn more about SP2A and our Annual Art Show.



Want to stay engaged in our work? Want to hear more great stories?
Connect with Friends of Guest House



@FriendsofGuestHouse



@FriendsofGuestHouse



@ReentryAdvocacy



@FriendsofGuestHouse

"Before I knew it, I was working and excelling. Six months flew by! And this time I transformed and became someone who today I'm so proud to be. I'm 4 years sober. I owe my success to Guest House for the patience and care they gave me."



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