Friends of Guest House Strategic Plan 2021–2023



About

Friends of Guest House is a non-profit organization based in Alexandria, VA that helps women successfully reenter the community from incarceration.

- Since 1974, Guest House has helped more than 4,000 women break the vicious cycle of incarceration.
- Guest House offers a six-month residential program, an aftercare program, and an outreach program.
- Under the 2018–2021 Strategic Plan, Guest House acquired a new facility and increased its residential capacity from 26 to 30 beds.

Mission

To provide formerly incarcerated women the structure, supervision, support, and assistance they need to move beyond who they were to become who they want to be.

Vision

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

5 Pillars of Livability



One of the first tasks for new residents upon arrival at Friends of Guest House is to complete an intake evaluation at the City of Alexandria Community Services Board. The evaluation determines what mental health services each woman will need in order to transition successfully from incarceration to the community.



EMPLOYMENT



EDUCATION



HOUSING



RECONNECTION

All residents participate in the Friends of Guest House Workforce and Life Development Program. **Upon completion of the program, graduates will obtain career-focused employment with a livable wage to support themselves and their families.**

Upon arrival at Friends of Guest House, all residents complete an intake evaluation with their dedicated case manager. If a resident needs education support, the resident and case manager will make a plan to address their education needs.

The Friends of Guest House Residential Program addresses the immediate need for housing upon release from jail or prison. The Friends of Guest House Second Chance Community is available for eligible Aftercare clients and offers single rooms that our clients can affordably rent on a transitional basis.

Family/community reconnection is one of the most important factors in successful reentry. Friends of Guest House offers parenting classes and community connections so women can start to learn the tools and skills they will need to return to their children's' lives and build a strong, supportive community.

Visit our website for more info on the 5 Pillars of Livability: friendsofguesthouse.org/about













Improved Outcomes for Guest House Women

Goal

Guest House will increase its Board to 13 – 15 members to welcome more diversity of skills and backgrounds, including at least one formerly incarcerated person. Board members will be active fund raisers and ambassadors in the community. They will meet high expectations for contributions. The Board will facilitate the search for a new Executive Director and ensure a smooth handover (anticipated 2022).



- All Board members will meet their give/get targets and participate in at least one committee
- Board members will have at least 90% attendance
- Following the Executive Director transition, more than 60% of stakeholders are retained

Guest House has long offered aftercare services to clients graduating from residential programs. **Guest House will increase reach of aftercare services** by enrolling more women and continuing to link them to the services they need to be successful, such as housing, educational opportunities, employment, and mental health services.

- At least 50% more aftercare clients by 2023
- At least 40% of aftercare clients maintain sobriety and avoid relapse
- At least 25% increase in higher education enrollment

Guest House's original facility on Luray St. is in need of significant renovation as the result of deferred maintenance. **Guest House will expand or rebuild the house** to include up to six additional beds. As a second priority, Guest House will study options to expand operations to other parts of Virginia.

- Complete entitlement and design by late 2022.
- Construction or rehabilitation underway in 2023 (if construction, complete work and occupy by March 2023; if rehab, complete work in early 2024)

To support the achievement of the other goals, **Guest House must expand its development team**. The expanded team must execute a Capital Campaign to raise at least \$1 million for the Luray St rehabilitation project. Additional funding will also be required to fund the planned expansion of aftercare programming. The expanded team will coordinate donor events and maintain regular communication with existing and prospective donors.

- The Capital Campaign will raise at least \$1 million
- Maintain quarterly communication with donors

The dedicated staff and volunteers of Guest House are the program's foundation. Guest House will promote a people-centered culture by creating opportunities for recognition and professional development, strengthening lines of communication, and nurturing leadership capacity amongst the team. The goal is to create a cohesive sense of trust and enthusiasm for the mission, and clarity around the organization's shared values of diversity and inclusion.

- Gather and respond to staff and volunteer feedback on at least a bi-annual basis
- Track and improve staff and volunteer retention