

Watch Our Progress!

Welcome to the first edition of the *Shiloh Village Newsletter*! We are happy to have you as a member of our community.

Shiloh Village is a dynamic, grass roots nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to transforming the lives of homeless women who've been released from jail and have been clean and sober for at least a year.

Through partnering with talented, resourceful individuals and groups in our community, our two year program of transitional housing, mentoring and empow-

ering women, will focus on moving them towards a goal of self-sufficiency.

Each quarter you'll get informative articles that track our progress as we implement our vision to make Shiloh Village a reality.

Our immediate goal is to find an existing structure we can renovate, or property accessible to bus lines and businesses, where we can build twelve apartments to house our residents.

We are eligible for funding from the WV Housing Development Fund, numerous affordable hous-

ing grants, and technical assistance programs. Purchase of the property will be contingent on receiving these funds, plus private and public donations.

We invite you to help us build Shiloh Village and transform women's lives through a faith-based perspective.

As we move forward, we'll let you know how you can get involved as a donor, volunteer, or supporter. Join us!

All roads lead to . . .

Shiloh Village!

Meet Our Board of Directors



Front Row:

Secretary - Michelle Kopf
Lipas Hicks

President - Gail Kopf
Karen Adkins

Back Row:

Stephanie Woody

Debbie Hicks

Jens Kiel

Treasurer - Melanie Murphy

Joanie Cushing

Jeannie Skaggs

Vice President - Debbie Oliver

Catch & Release



Since 1970, the number of women in jail nationwide has increased 14-fold—from under 8,000 to nearly 110,000—and now accounts for approximately half of all women behind bars in the United States.

Once a rarity, women are now held in jails in nearly every

county—a stark contrast to 1970, when almost three-quarters of counties held *not a single woman* in jail.

According to the 2016 WV Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Annual Report, 11,540 females were incarcerated in WV in 2016.

West Virginia has the highest rate of female incarceration in the world, imprisoning women at twice the rate of Thailand and more than six times the rate of United Arab Emirates, according to a report released by the non-profit group *Prison Policy Initiative* in 2015.

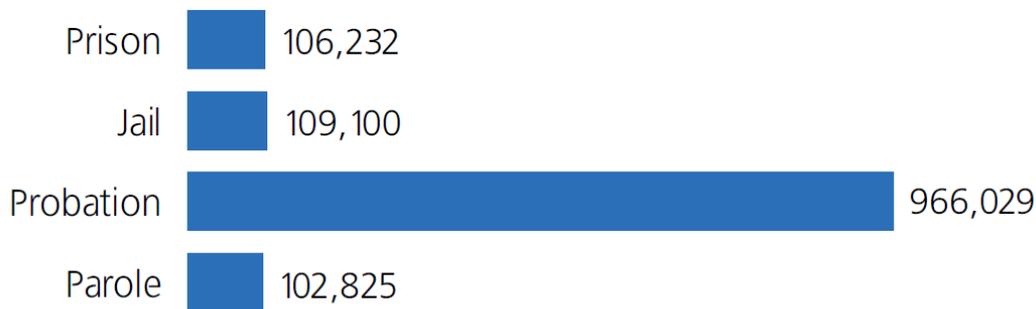
“Once incarcerated, women must grapple with systems, practices, and policies that are designed for the majority of the incarcerated population: men. With limited resources, jails are often ill-equipped to address the challenges women face when they enter the justice system.

As a result, many women leave jail with diminished prospects for physical and behavioral health recovery, with greater parental stress and strain, and in even more financially precarious circumstances than before becoming caught up in the justice system.” (Vera Institute of Justice)



The rate of growth for female imprisonment has outpaced men by more than 50% between 1980 and 2014. There are 1.2 million women under the supervision of the criminal justice system.

Women Under Control of the U.S. Corrections System, 2014



Source: Carson, E.A. (2015). *Prisoners in 2014*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Minton, T.D., and Zeng, Z. (2015). *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2014*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Kaeble, D., Maruschak, LM, and Bonczar (2015). *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2014*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Transitional Housing

While emergency shelters may be necessary for short-term crises, they were never intended to serve as long-term housing.

Few women leaving jail have the first and last months' rent and security deposits that are typically required to get an apartment.

Even if they did, landlords in many states are given wide latitude in denying leases to people with a criminal record.

Inmates who are granted parole may have up to 90 days to secure an approved home plan. If unable to secure one during this time, the inmate must wait another year.

A woman who pays more than



To rent a typical apartment in Kanawha County, a person earning minimum wage (\$8.75 hour) would need to work 80 hours per week to afford rent on an average two-bedroom apartment (\$700).

30 percent of her income for housing is considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care. A family with one full-time worker earning the minimum wage cannot afford the

local fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in the United States. (HUD)

Transitional housing provides apartments, supportive services and a stable environment to homeless women who are working to improve or develop the skills necessary to live independently.

According to the West Virginia Housing Policy Work Group, "Safe and affordable housing is inextricably connected to the well-being of West Virginia's citizens and essential to thriving communities."

Stay in Touch



Shilohvillage.org

