


JLS HOUSING CENTER

Transitional housing for women activists and political prisoners.

Solidarity

JAILHOUSE LAWYERS SPEAK

JLS Housing Center

Managed by Roc's House Inc. 

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Women

SUCCESS IN A SAFE SPACE

The JLS Housing Center provides incarcerated women Activists' and Political Prisoners temporary housing upon release on the country side. Our location offers a safe space for a successful transition back into society and our organizing communities.

What does a successful transition look like?

Our residents have a rich history of giving back to their communities prior to their incarceration. Each resident comes highly recommended to our housing center because of the time and work they have invested in other incarcerated women. During their time in prison, our residents displayed leadership, courage and discipline by educating other women through educational books, courses and the Jailhouse Lawyers Speak paralegal program. Unfortunately, for the majority of women released from prison, they are immediately met with the struggle and hardship of needing safe housing with a sanitary environment, healthy food, medical attention and assistance in reconnecting with activist groups and organizing communities.

The JLS Housing Center requires each resident to participate in 3 in-house training programs. Our training programs consist of: Nutritional Intake, Mindfulness and Self-defense. Each program offers hands-on training, enabling women to apply lessons and skills to their daily routine. Residents have access to our homestead gardens, encouraging farm to table methods of cooking and learning about the nutritional and economic benefits of growing and consuming fresh food. Our mindfulness training allows residents to pinpoint areas of interest (i.e. Hatha Yoga, Concentrative Meditation & Contemplative Meditation, etc) in order to research, study and begin to apply different practices to form healthy long term habits for themselves. Residents will also take on the task of strengthening their bodies through physical training focusing on their physical strength, conditioning and self defense skills. Our programs are designed to increase the quality of the mind, body and spirit and our aim is that each resident moves forward into their permanent homes and communities stronger with more confidence, clarity and self-control.

BEHIND THE *Purpose & Passion* OF THE JLS HOUSING CENTER

As the largest US prisoner-led organization for Prisoners Human Rights, Jailhouse Lawyers Speak is a household name among today's abolitionists. Founded in 2016, JLS is most known for their ongoing work to arm prisoners with educational literature, books and legal courses that gave way to many jailhouse lawyers, not only to help their own fight for freedom but to pass on the knowledge to teach others how to fight for themselves as well. Jailhouse Lawyers Speak has built a bridge between prisoners and outside organizations and together inside and outside activists have orchestrated national prison strikes and marches across the country for nearly a decade. In December 2020, it was reported that there were roughly 83,054 female prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities in the US. Statistics tell us there are approximately 1.9 million women released from prisons and jails each year, and it is predicted that over 70% of women formerly imprisoned have experienced homelessness due to lack of resources and support once they are freed from jail. In 2021, the Founder of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak stated "As one of the leading national prisoner-led Human Rights organizations in this nation, as a whole, it is our responsibility to get involved in this struggle on behalf of our sisters, mothers, daughters and loved ones." In the same year, Jailhouse Lawyers Speak decided to move on opening the first JLS Housing Project for returning women activists and political prisoners. The JLS Housing Center is entrusted and in collaboration with Roc's House Inc. Founder, Adrian "Rocky" Noll.

Roc's House was established in 2020 as an umbrella for various creative projects for political prisoners. Rocky describes her passion for freedom work as a personal journey inspired and nurtured over the years by world-renowned Doctor of Acupuncture and old law Political Prisoner, Dr. Mutulu Shakur. *"Mutulu took me under his wing when I was just a kid. He quickly identified my exposure to multiple realities at a young age. We can dig deeper into that but to summarize, Mutulu and I worked together in a number of different capacities from creative projects to strength and conditioning of the mind, body and spirit for competitive fighting and self defense. We did this through consistent communication. With his mentorship I've been able to develop ways to utilize all the faucets that shape me into who I am today. I am able to bring a plethora of skills and gifts to the JLS Housing Center and I thoroughly look forward to passing on my strengths to other women."*

In late 2021, Jailhouse Lawyers Speak and Roc's House Inc. closed on the renovation property for the multi-purpose JLS Housing Center.

ABOUT THE PROPERTY



“ WE ARE FOCUSED ON PROVIDING A PEACEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE SAFE HAVEN TO RETURNING WOMEN WHO HAVE A TRACK RECORD OF ACTIVISM ALIGNED WITH JAILHOUSE LAWYERS SPEAKS.”

JLS Housing Project is directly connected with Roc’s House, a genuine residence, opening their doors to make the most of the sought out property. Returning women will be temporary residents where they will be part of the daily operations in a family style setting while preparing for their transition into permanent housing.

Separate structures on the property conveniently serve multiple purposes including but not limited to: safe housing, the central office for Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, gardens and livestock to provide free food to the community and house residents, training space for self-defense including a year-round pool for physical therapy, mindfulness/mental health and nutritional training. Residents will be able to participate in the day-to-day operations of this residential farmhouse, which include vegetable landscaping, organic farming, herb gardening, dual-crop farming and handling livestock.

The JLS Housing Center is located in an exceptionally low crime rate area. Employment opportunities are within 2 to 20 miles and we offer private transportation for our residents.

INVESTING IN THE *Vision*

Opening a non-traditional transitional home is a huge undertaking! Founders of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak and Roc's House Inc. have generously invested time, energy and monetary savings into renovating the housing property. The JLS Housing Project has also brought in an unsuspected amount of support from outside organizations and individuals. Our on-site program director has been hands-on with every renovation and home improvement project. Hard work continues around the clock to see the housing center open and operating in 2023, a record breaking time in which a non-traditional transitional renovation housing project of this magnitude has ever been done with an inside and outside collaboration.

WHAT TO DONATE

Donations can be made at: www.jlshousingcenter.com or by contacting info@jlshousingcenter.com

Gift Cards: Home Depot, Lowes, Tractor Supply, Walmart, Amazon, Visa

*Warm blankets, pillows, dishware (bowls, cups, plates, silverware of any type or style)

*Gently used women's clothing (undergarments must be new)

*Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, other female supplies

*Notebooks, pens, envelopes, stamps

*Tablets, laptops, desktop computers, phones

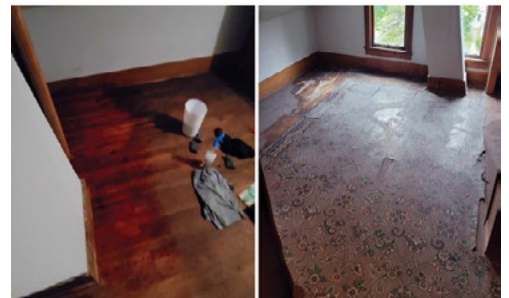
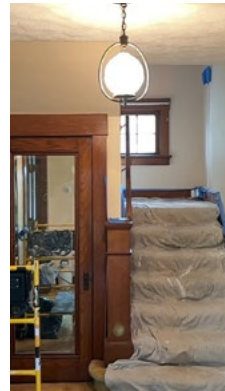
TRANSPARENCY REPORT

Completed Improvements:

- New roofing
- New dry-wall and paint
- Updated electrical panel
- New water heater
- Waterproofing
- Updated foundational work
- Housing security system

Incomplete Improvements:

- Other Electrical work
- Flooring
- Insulation
- Other drywall
- Other roofing
- Other cement laying and structure stabilizing work



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

2022-2023 Our next goal is to complete the rest of the renovation work. Following the completion of the home improvement repairs we will be moving to connect with other organizations and volunteers.

Volunteer based work:

Assist women in obtaining their vital records

Accountability Partnership Program

Employment resources

Assist women in transitioning to permanent housing

Organizing Network Placement

CONTACT US

All inquires can be sent to: info@jlshousingcenter.com

*Stepping
Stone*