

Hostelling International USA

The Delaware Valley Council of American Youth Hostels, Inc.

Annual Report ~ Year Ending March 31st, 2010



"Promoting Peace Through Cultural and Environmental Educational Exchange"

Opening Minds by Opening Doors



Did you know hostelling was founded in Germany in 1909?

Visit Us On
FaceBook

Philadelphia was the first mailing address for American Youth Hostels. Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, Inc. 225 South 15th Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

The Delaware Valley Council of American Youth Hostels, Inc. has opened the door to regional exploration, international travel, and educational experiences for generations of young people. We are the leading institution in the Delaware Valley that promotes peace through low cost regional exploration, green education, domestic and international cultural exchange.

Thousands of area youth groups visit our Youth Hostels annually, to explore the state's beautiful natural environments, history and culture. Our program takes them beyond their neighborhoods, by providing low-cost educational adventures and invaluable, life-changing experiences in the region and beyond.

Our Regional Youth Hostels are also visited by hundreds of tourist from across the globe, helping to make this region a top destination for domestic and international tourist.

An International Network

The Delaware Valley Council of American Youth Hostels Inc. is one of the 35 independent nonprofit Councils in the United States that constitute the national organization, Hostelling International American Youth hostels, Inc., (HI USA), which is member of the International Youth Hostelling Federation (IYHF), which consist of 81 countries.

Our mission —

"To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling."

We carry out our mission through the Youth Hostel Program, providing safe affordable accommodations and activities to promote peace through cultural and environmental educational exchange, predominantly to youth and youth organizations within the region and the US

"During weekend retreats, our youth staff have leaned valuable lessons in cooperation by taking turns preparing meals as well as learning to clean up behind themselves. They have also been able to enjoy the serenity of being in natural surroundings and take a break for city living. In many ways, you have helped give the inner-city youth with whom we work an opportunity to explore the world beyond their neighborhoods."

Assistant Director, Youth Health Empowerment Project, Philadelphia, PA.

Memberships Make it Happen, Join Us Today!



A Legacy of Hostelling in the Delaware Valley

The History of Delaware Valley Council of American Youth Hostels

On March 24, 1944 two hundred enthusiastic hostellers joined together at a meeting of the Horse-Shoe Trail Club to found the Philadelphia Area Council of American Youth Hostels.

In 1958 WHYY produced a 30 minute TV show on hostelling. Two years later in 1961, the Philadelphia Area Council was incorporated. From 1963 through 1965, the Council developed and opened HI Chamounix Mansion youth hostel in Fairmount Park. Chamounix Mansion was the first municipally owned Youth Hostel in the US. The Council also developed and implemented the first inner city, youth programs in the organization in 1968. In 1971, the Council was re-named The Delaware Valley Council, to reflect the broader region it served.

In order to preserve the mission and the legacy of hostelling in Pennsylvania, in 1995, the Council assumed management of four Pennsylvania Hostels, slated for closing by the National Organization. That same year we also purchased the HI Bowmansville hostel, and started plans for an extensive restoration project.

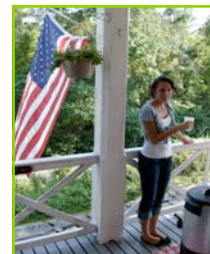
Today in our 66th year of operation, we continue our mission through hostel development, educational programs and partnerships. This past year we made some very difficult choices in order sustain our fiscal viability, limit our liabilities and move our organization forward. We closed HI Tyler and HI Iron Master's Mansion youth hostels, which had both remained open 15 years beyond their original slated closing dates. We are proud that these hostels were operational for this extended period time however, we recognize that the only feasible and viable way to sustain youth hostels is through property ownership or long-term leases. Your support will assist us with our commitment to our mission and realizing our goals for hostel development.

Promoting Travel for Youth as a Means for Peace Through Cultural Access to the Globe

Hostels exist throughout the world as safe, affordable havens for young people and other culture seekers, to explore their own region or to travel abroad. Hostelling was founded in Germany at the turn of the 20th Century in 1909, during the industrial revolution. The premise was to improve the health and quality of life of youth living in smog ridden industrial cities, by taking them out into the countryside for activities such as to hiking, cycling and swimming.

Cultural Exchange as a Means to End War

By the end of World War II, people began to recognize the potential of hostelling as a means to advance the cause of peace. Hostels were viewed as a gateway for cultural exchange to promote international understanding among young people of the world. Hostel associations soon began appearing around the globe.



“Since the 1980’s our school has participated in a partnership with the American Youth Hostels and King’s Gap Environmental Center. Our environmental education, based at Iron Master’s Mansion Youth Hostel, provides opportunities for our students to learn how to interact harmoniously with each other and the natural world. Going to the youth hostel is one of the most memorable experiences of past and present students. It is our hope that this historic site can be maintained and improved to ensure a wonderful place for students to stay for years to come.”

— M. Kratzer, Educator
St. Stephens Episcopal School
Harrisburg, PA.



Cultural Kitchen Program participants at Intercultural Family Services in Philadelphia, PA



Girl Scouts from Camden County, NJ in London after receiving GS patches for attending World Travel 101 Seminar.

Hostelling in Pennsylvania

Did you know that Pennsylvania's legacy of hostelling dates back to the late 1930's?



Hostelling International Chamounix Mansion (Fairmount Park)
3250 Chamounix Drive, Philadelphia PA 19131
(80 Beds)

Located in Philadelphia's West Fairmount Park, this historic Chamounix Mansion has welcomed overnight guests and groups for forty years. Originally built in 1802 as a country home, the mansion rests on a scenic bluff above the Schuylkill River, and is convenient to Philadelphia's cultural and historic attractions, sporting events, and restaurants. Close to the Mann Music Center Philadelphia Zoo and the Please Touch Museum.

Phone: 215.878.367

Email: philadelphia.chamounix@hiosa.org

Operated By the Friends of Chamounix

If it were not for Iron Master's Mansion, my students would have never have seen Gettysburg because there is no where affordable to stay or eat. As city kids, they would not know the joys of hiking the beautiful Appalachian Trail. They would not have experienced what slaves must have felt descending into the hidden room to hide from bounty hunters."

— M. H. Rogers, Educator, Abington School District, PA



HI Apple Hostel (70 Beds)

32 S. Bank Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Located in Old City Philadelphia, in the center of the Historical District. steps from Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Constitution Center and Penn's Landing.

Phone: 215.922.0222

Email: philadelphia.apple@hiosa.org

Privately Owned & Operated by Apple Hostels



HI Weisel, Lake Nockamixon (18 Beds)

7347 Richlandtown Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

located in historic Bucks County near Doylestown the Michener Art Museum, Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, the Pearl S. Buck House, the artist colony of New Hope with its galleries and shops situated along the Delaware River.

Phone: 215.536.8749

Email: weisel@hiosa.org

Operated by Bucks County Parks & Recreation

Closed on April 30th, 2010 HI Iron Master's Mansion, Garners, PA

The Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks was not able to grant us a long term lease, which was necessary for the security of future capital investment in the property. Under the year to year lease terms being offered we could not guarantee patrons and grantors that their investments would

be utilize for the purpose of hostelling should our lease be terminated in any given year.

This was a very hard decision for the Council however, the liabilities associated with capital investment was not feasible.





What's Next



"I have taken New York City public school students to youth hostels in Pennsylvania since 1990. I have heard that you are closing youth hostels in Pennsylvania. This is a terrible shame. It is a loss of a resource that can help youth at time when they need so much help to learn survival skills in an increasingly complex world."

— N. Shore, Educator
Murry Bergtraum High School
New York, NY



Sustaining the legacy of hostelling in Pennsylvania and the Tri-State Region is our current focus. We are actively searching for a property to house the Philadelphia Gateway Youth Hostel. Currently Philadelphia is under served by the Youth Hostel Program. Our internal data for hostel participants along the Northeast Corridor and data provided by the Philadelphia Convention and Tourism Bureau, suggest that a

250 beds or more Youth Hostel is necessary.

An organizationally operated hostel in Philadelphia will greatly increase our mission delivery by providing accommodations for large groups to visit our region and increase regional participation in our programs. The project has garnered interest and support from the Pennsylvania Tourism Office, the City of Philadelphia and community youth organizations.

Small and Rural Youth hostels are truly the Gems of our network. This decade we have closed four youth hostels in Pennsylvania, due to the astronomical rising cost associated with keeping them operational and unsustainable leases.

Revenues generated from the Philadelphia Youth Hostel will assist with developing and sustaining viable small hostels in the region.

Why Now?

We are constantly looking for opportunities, which will expand our network and community programming reach. Our current focus on Philadelphia as an identifiable need, will require a large investment and regional support. Nationally our organization has been very successful at forming partnerships with local governments and community agencies for hostel development.

Through out the US, urban hostels are not only seen as budget accommodations for tourist, but also as opportunities to engage local communities in dialogs about the world, people and culture. These hostels often have mixed and alternative uses like community auditoriums; meeting spaces; shops and dorm rooms for local colleges.

Our vision for Philadelphia is to have a green hostel with enough space to accommodate groups of a 100 people or more, making Philadelphia an affordable destination for many groups who live beyond the day trip zone.

HI's current combined hostel capacity in Philadelphia is 150 people and neither hostel can host a group larger than 80 people or have private rooms for families. We will also have rooms and spaces to conduct our cultural and green education programs for area school children and for community events

We are in the process of identifying and reviewing potential properties that will meet our project's criteria. We have made project presentations to and been in com-

munications with local government agencies, elected officials, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, local colleges, potential grantors and sponsors. The feedback has been positive and supportive.

The project is viewed as having great merit and producing multiple benefits for the regional community. In this current recession, the City has welcomed the prospect of new jobs, tourist dollars and tax revenues. We have been contacted by local work force agencies about providing job training and colleges about internships for hospitality management majors. We are confident in the projects success based on City's needs, local support, early commitments and interest.

The Youth Hostel Program in Our Regional Community

Today we still champion our Founder's belief, by operating youth hostels in rural settings that are enjoyed by school age children from cities and towns through out our region. Local community youth organizations which include, at risk youth programs, school districts, colleges, scouts and religious organization visits these facilities for environmental education, retreats, historical tours and recreational activities.

The Delaware Valley Council of American Youth Hostels, Inc. takes every opportunity to promote the importance of educating our youth by providing them with opportunities to have these wonderful experiences through our hostels and Council activities.

The Council annually participates in Philadelphia's Fall Festival. During the event we gave an Introduction to Hostelling presentation, a World Travel 101 seminar and had an information booth. This event provided us with an opportunity to directly share the mission and opportunities our hostelling program provides to community groups, individuals and families.

Annually we work with the Abington High School Community Days of Service Program. This program provides students annually with opportunities for community service to assist with college entrance.

Through our Cultural Kitchen program, school age children have an opportunity to learn about the culture of children from other coun-

tries. They watched interactive slide shows where they learn about the culture, geography and listen to music from these countries. They participate fixing authentic meals, learn a traditional dance or cultural art forms, from these countries.

This past year the Board of Directors focused on fundraising through public relations and building community relationships. They attended events and meetings, which will assist with garnering interest, providing support and potential partnerships for the Philadelphia Youth Hostel Project.

If you are interested in participating in our programs or would like to assist us with the Philadelphia Youth Hostel Project, please contact us: ayh@hi-dvc.org or 215.925.6005



*For Current
Events and
Activities, Join
Our List-Serve
www.hi-dvc.org*



Our Mission in Action!

Domestic Hostellers

Groups Ages 5-25	912
Groups	102
Total of 28 Groups	1,014
Individuals & Families	569
International Hostellers	33

Total Hostel Guest 1,616

Educational Programs

Environmental Education	286
Underground Rail Road Tours	728
Introductory to Hostelling/NICE	236
World Travel 101 Seminars	78
Community Service Projects	124

Total Participants 1,452

Fulfilling our Mission in Today's World



A Changing World

The work of building international peace and understanding through cultural exchange and educational exposure is more crucial than ever in today's rapidly changing world. The tragic events of September 11th, 2001 reinforced the public's fears of other cultures, and made us feel apprehensive about travel. Now is the time to combat fear and isolation through exchange, exposure, and understanding.

IOU Respect is a program created by Hostelling International to foster peace and understanding, which is a United Nations sanctioned venture, based on their theme "A Decade of Peace". Since 2002, Twenty-two outstanding young adults ages 18-23 from the countries of France, Germany, Morocco, Tunisia and United States, participate in this two week summer program. They share their cultures, talk about their hopes and expectations, work together on activities and community service projects. In 2006, HI Iron Master's Mansion was one of the host US hostels for this program. In 2009, the program was hosted by France.

Educating Through Experience and Exposure

The Hostel experience provides affordable cultural enrichment activities, educational retreats, and outdoor environmental programming for thousands of youth in our region. Eighty Percent of our Hostel Program participants are Non-Profit Youth Groups. We continue to build partnerships with community youth organizations, through our Nature and Inter-Cultural Education (NICE) program, which introduces inner-city youth organizations to the Youth Hostel Program. Providing their participants with an opportunity to have rural experiences that stimulates their senses and fosters a connection to the world beyond their neighborhood. At youth hostels, they can engage in recreational activities otherwise unavailable in an urban setting including environmental education seminars, history tours, hiking, swimming, boating, and fishing. Nature is an ideal place for leadership training, development of self-esteem, and character building. The Hostel's communal living space allows youth to often interact with young people from around the world.

For the past eighteen years we have offered internships to local college work-study students. Many college students cannot afford to work non-paying internships, which puts them at a disadvantage when entering the job market after graduation. Utilizing their work-study grant gives them an opportunity to gain

valuable work experience while having a paid internship. The program is very successful and popular with local universities. Students participate in the program on average for one school year and many stay for the summer.

Making Our Region Part of A Global Community

The Delaware Valley Council plays a vital daily role, in assisting thousands in the region with access to the world beyond their neighborhoods, by facilitating opportunities for affordable travel for cultural exchange and green education.

We assist with travel arrangements and information for groups, families and college study abroad programs. We also provide access to these services and information online at our web-site.

We conduct Budget Travel 101 seminars for the public. The seminars focus on safety, travel preparations, and cultural differences and expectations. The seminar is so popular they are given through out the tri-state region to honoring special request from groups and organizations such as the scouts and universities.

Hostelling teaches the value of global citizenship, that peace comes through understanding and that we all, as citizens of the world, have more in common than we think.

You Can Make a Difference !

Dear Friends,

Our sincerest gratitude and thanks to our volunteers, patrons, agency partners and businesses, who have made our organization's continuing operations a success through a decade of transition and fiscal restraints. We have made fiscally responsible yet painful expense reductions over the past year which included closing Tyler Youth Hostel in Newtown, PA. Despite these challenges, we have continued working on plans for the HI Philadelphia Gateway Youth Hostel Project and provided cultural and green educational programs to youth and adults in the region.

Last year our organization celebrated two mile stones with much fan fare, the 100th anniversary of Hostelling International and the 75th Anniversary of American Youth Hostels. In August, 2009, we hosted National Anniversary Open House Day at Iron Master's Mansion with a band, Bar-b-Que and Underground Railroad tours. The event was very festive and well attended.

Moving forward, we ask for your continuing support, to help ensure that Youth Hostels remain a vibrant and relevant part of our region for current and future generations of young people. Once again, thank you for helping us keep the legacy of the Youth Hostel Program alive in Pennsylvania and the Tri State Community.

Sincerely,

—The Board of Directors & Staff—



Volunteers Are the Keys to Our Success!

The Youth Hostel Program is successful because of volunteers and community support. We have many opportunities for volunteers and welcome new community partnerships. If you are interested in assisting with or participating in, The Youth Hostel Program please contact us:

ayh@hi-dvc.org
Phone: 215.225.6005



Sponsors & Partners

Atwater Kent Foundation
Greater Philadelphia
Tourism & Marketing, Corp.
Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks
Singer Corporation
LaColombe Coffee
The Restaurant School At
Walnut Hill College
Margolis Realty
Midtown Village Merchants Association
Pennsylvania Higher Education
Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

Patrons

Annette Anderson	Kathy Wenger
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Catherine Keller	Mary Stock
Christopher Stannik	Randall Blanchard
Dawn Hamilton	Rev. Ronald Romeis
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Dhaval Patel	Richard R. Palazzo
Dmitri Dovas	Robert L. Ledwith
Doris Schlessinger Grubin	Robert Wise
Ernest A. Schulte	Ron O'Neal
Ethel Lamons	Shirley Smith
Gail Robinson	Steven B. Sherman
Gwynne L. Ormsby	Vance A. Bachman
Herbert Gregory	John Hopkins U. Medical
Jason Rainville	Hiking Club
Joseph McDonnell	St. Stephens Episcopal School

Volunteers Make it Happen

Special Thanks to the HI Iron Master's
Mansion January Work Party Crew
Amadee Braxton
Randall Blanchard
The Hockersmith Family
Eric & Sophie Horowitz
Catherine Keller
Joseph McDonnell
Jason Rainville
Linda Waters
Robert Wise
Abington High School Community
Service Program

Support Our Program

Today the Delaware Valley Council of American Youth Hostels faces new challenges for our important work. Like many in the non-profit sector, we are coping with the economical and financial challenges this past decade has brought and the rising cost of operations. Your financial contributions will make a difference by helping us maintain our commitment to serving the youth in our community and provide the additional assistance necessary to make the hostelling experience a fun and safe one.

The demands of a growing Global Community require preparing our Youth to play an active and positive role in its transformation. The Youth Hostel Program provides youth with an opportunity to have meaningful cultural and green educational experiences, in a safe and affordable environment. Our program is considered a valuable resource for schools, scouts, community youth organizations, families and budget savvy tourist. Your support will make a difference!

For additional information about donations, planned giving, hostel and hostel room's naming rights, bequest and sponsorship opportunities, please contact us or make a donation today though our web site.



Inside Our Organization

Board of Directors

Executive Officers

Ron O'Neal, *President*

*Executive Director, Educational Opportunity
Center University of Pennsylvania*

Deidra Bailey, *Vice-President*

Executive Director, Each One Teach Consultants

Doris NG, *Treasurer*

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Shaun Brady

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CEO, Wellstar Enterprises, Inc.

William Durham

Director of Community Relations, LaSalle University

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Kenneth Young, Esquire

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Frances Ann Wilson, *Educator*

The School District of Philadelphia

Staff

Ta'Juanna D. Anderson, *Executive Director*

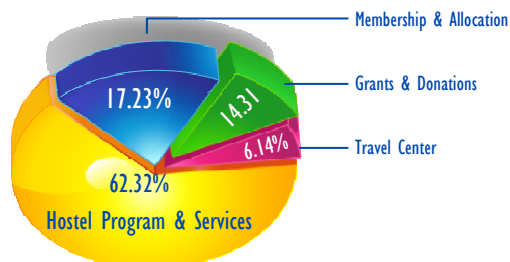
Former Hostel Managers

Raymond Burt, *HI Iron Master's Mansion*

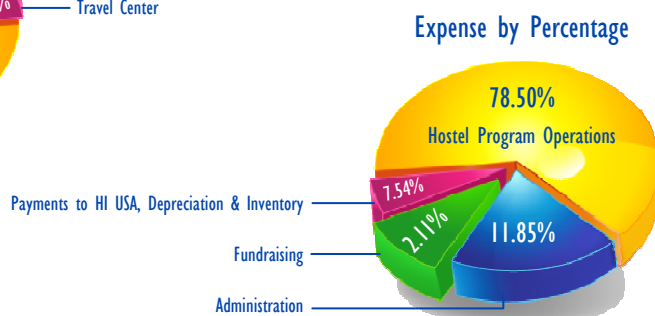
Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Gardners, PA

Jim Whitmoyer & Susan Thompson

HI Tyler State Park, Newtown, PA



Income by Percentage



Financial Statement Year Ending March 31, 2010

Income

Hostel Program & Services	44,540
Inventory Accessories	282
Less Inventory Expense	(219)
Gross Profit	63
Memberships & Allocations	11,227
Grants & Donations	9,367

Total Revenue 65,247

Expense

Program Services	59,549
Administrative	8,405
Fundraising	1,500
Payments to Affiliates	1,470

Total Expense 70,924

Net Gain or Loss (5,677)

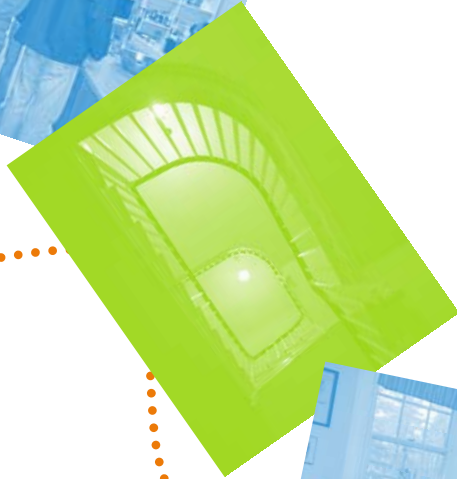
Net Asset Balance

Beginning Year Net Assets	14,044
End of Year Net Asset	8,367



Annual Report Fiscal Year Ending March 31st, 2010

WWW.HI-DVC.ORG



The Delaware Valley Council of American Youth Hostels, Inc.

P. O. Box 13178

Philadelphia, PA 19101

Phone: 215.925.6005

Web: WWW.HI-DVC.ORG

E-mail: ayh@hi-dvc.org

Join Us on FaceBook

Donate on Ebay through Mission Fish

The Delaware Valley Council of American Youth Hostels, Inc., is a 501 (C) 3 educational non-profit organization, incorporated in Pennsylvania, USA. All cash contributions are 100% tax deductible and fundraising event donations are tax deductible to the extent express by Federal and State Laws.