



# Alvis House News

Summer 2009

Community Corrections Programs serving Columbus, Chillicothe, Dayton, Lima and Toledo

Founded 1967

## 42nd Annual Meeting Highlights

President's Golden Rule Awards are given in acknowledgment of the profound impact individuals and/or groups have had on the agency's ability to carry out its mission. This year's recipients are pictured below, flanked on the left by Hon. John Connor, board chair, and on the right by Denise M. Robinson, president and CEO. Judge Connor, who retired as the board chair at the annual meeting, was also honored for service to Alvis House.



*Jeff Carson was honored for making many donations over the years of items such as clothing for clients to wear to job interviews, blankets, toiletries, and much more. Jeff recently retired from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) and plans to volunteer his time to mentor and provide employment readiness assistance to individuals who have become involved in the criminal justice system.*

*Sister Shirlene Washington, First Lady of Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist Church, was honored for her work to celebrate, encourage, support and empower women from all walks of life. She has facilitated several clothing donations and very large donations of toiletries from major businesses in Central Ohio.*



*Southeast, Inc., was recognized for working with Alvis House to provide mental health counseling to clients referred by the US Probation Office in Central Ohio. Kim Smith accepted the award on behalf of Southeast.*



*Abbra Kessler, a client in one of Alvis House's womens programs, closed the annual meeting with a song. She has also sung at the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice Symposium.*



Director Terry Collins, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, served as the evening's keynote speaker. He commended Alvis House for the agency's excellent work in many areas, noting, "Halfway houses reduce recidivism by 6%. Alvis House reduces recidivism by twice that - 12%."

Director Collins spoke extensively about the growth of Ohio's prison population, where the system is operating at more than 130% of capacity. "Ohio has come to a crossroads in terms of how to effectively manage offenders," said Collins. "Do we continue to send people to prison for low level offenses such as drug abuse, nonsupport and theft?" He noted it will cost taxpayers more than \$1 billion to build prisons needed to house the current population without overcrowding and will cost much more to operate them. In contrast, Collins said, "Many [individuals in community corrections programs] were employed, paid taxes, court fines, child support and participated in community service. They became taxpayers, not tax burdens."

Director Collins concluded by saying, "I have long been and will continue to be a supporter and an advocate for the use of community alternatives to incarceration when appropriate...socially and fiscally, it does not make sense to continue to shuttle more and more people off to prison, especially those low level nonviolent felonies when research and practice shows they are better served in the community."

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**Welcome New Officers, Trustees**

The following individuals were elected as officers of the Alvis House Board of Trustees:

J. Scott Weisman,  
Attorney, Chair



Hon. Stephen McIntosh, Judge,  
Franklin County  
Court of Common  
Pleas, First Vice  
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Associates,  
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These individuals were elected as new members of the Alvis House Board of Trustees:

Hon. Laurel Beatty, Judge,  
Franklin County  
Court of Common  
Pleas



Wednesday  
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## Agency News Clips

Congresswoman Mary Jo Kilroy hosted Denise M. Robinson along with other Central Ohio employers, including Nationwide Insurance, Honda and Cardinal Health, at a roundtable discussion on health reform. Rep. Kilroy was interested in hearing about what's working well for employers and how health-focused programs have resulted in cost savings. Robinson spoke about Alvis House's Wellness Program, which offers incentives and events such as a weight-loss competition and participation in the Race for the Cure that helped the agency to secure just a 1% increase in insurance rates for 2009-10.



*Hon. Mary Jo Kilroy and Denise M. Robinson*



*Clients and staff on their way to meet Bill Cosby*

Bill Cosby, comedian, author, actor and philanthropist, hosted clients in Alvis House's Young Adult Reentry Program for an intimate, invitation-only audience with him in Columbus. Youth listened to Cosby as he shared stories about his experience of moving from poverty to prosperity and he challenged them to "dare to dream outside their box and comfort zone and to pursue a college education."

**Thank you** very much to all of the generous donors who contributed to Alvis House through the Nationwide Children's Golf Invitational, the Family Evening of Strength and by purchasing commemorative pavers for the Mary W. Renoll Garden. If you would still like to purchase a garden paver, please call Heather Hines at (614)252-8402.



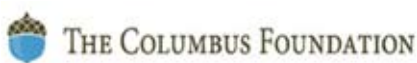
*Dr. Randy Shively*

Randy Shively, Ph.D., Vice President of Clinical Services at Alvis House, was appointed to chair the Substance Abuse Committee of the American Correctional Association (ACA).

Christina Char, Community Corrections Specialist at the Alum Creek Residential Treatment Facility, was honored as Employee of the Year for 2008-09.



*Christina Char*



Do you know about the Alvis House Fund at the Columbus Foundation? More information is available at [www.columbusfoundation.org/give/](http://www.columbusfoundation.org/give/).

**Alvis House: Our mission is to serve communities by providing research-based programs and services that promote healthier families, personal responsibility and public safety.**

For more information about Alvis House, please visit [www.alvishouse.org](http://www.alvishouse.org) or contact Gloria Nielsen Iannucci at (614)252-8402 or [giannucci@alvishouse.org](mailto:giannucci@alvishouse.org)

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United Way  
of Central Ohio  
Member Agency

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## Alvis House Honors Benefactress Mary W. Renoll

Mary W. Renoll, a member of Alvis House's Women's Sustaining Board that helped to support the agency in its earliest years, was honored for her generous bequest that will help Alvis House programs and services continue to help future generations.



*The Mary W. Renoll Garden was designed and built by Jeremy Cline, manager, Alvis House facilities maintenance.*

that a garden is such a fitting way not only to remember Ms. Renoll, but it is also a wonderful way to think about the work of Alvis House," said Denise M. Robinson, president and CEO of Alvis House. "At Alvis House, we plant and tend the seeds of personal growth and responsibility and look for those seeds to take root and grow. We are very fortunate to have support from individuals like Ms. Renoll to help us continue to care for 'our garden' and fulfill our mission to promote healthier families, personal responsibility and public safety."

### The Wittwer Hall Treatment

Program has been serving individual with developmental disabilities since 1981. Wittwer Hall clients assisted in preparing and serving refreshments at the event and will care for the garden.

Ms. Renoll was

an avid gardener, so Alvis House chose to honor her with a Memory Garden at Wittwer Hall. The Wittwer Hall program at Alvis House is an intensive, long term treatment program for individuals with developmental disabilities. "I think

