



# SALS JOURNAL

*a publication of the Southern Appalachian Labor School*

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## 17th Solidarity Fest Juneteenth, Flag Day, Emancipation Event

The flags will wave again to celebrate another year of good works here at SALS. On Saturday June 14, 2008 at the SALS community center in Beards Fork, we will host our 17<sup>th</sup> annual solidarity Festival. This year promises to be one of our best ever.

We've lined up an exciting group of performers, including Billy Payne, Las Echos featuring Amber Marsteller and Lori Keller, Beards Fork native Harold Allen with Terri Lively and many more. There will be displays of various kinds, especially those in forming the public about some of the things that SALS has accomplished this year and throughout the years.

There will also be games and activities for kids - inflatable play items such as a waterslide and trampoline. The event will be held outside, however, in the event of inclement weather we will bring the celebration inside the roomy community center. Make note of the date and plan to join us for joyful day of celebration and sharing old friends. And you.



*Waterslide fun at last year's Festival*

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## Beards Fork Clinic Marks Fourth Year

*by Dan Doyle, MD*

Beards Fork Clinic, a joint venture of SALS and New River Health Association will complete four years of service this fall. Dan Doyle M.D. and Lisa Manley provide primary care medical visits on the second Friday of every month from 1 to 4 PM. Clinic services include baseline physical exams, wellness visits, acute illness visits, or simple healthcare questions. Dr. Doyle can also provide care for chronic diseases like diabetes, blood pressure, heart failure, asthma, black lung, arthritis.

Lisa Manley is available every day to answer healthcare questions, do blood pressure checks, and schedule doctor visits. The clinic is open to SALS employees, their family members, and the local community. For SALS employees, there is no out-of-pocket expense for Beards Fork Clinic. New River bills insurance (if any) and SALS pays any remaining employee portion.

For family members and local community the same sliding scale system is in effect as at all other New River Clinic sites. If you are a New River patient, Doctor Doyle has all your records and lab results available when he is here at Beards Fork. This is done by on-line computer. No paper or electronic medical records are stored at the Beards Fork Center.

### **Immunization campaign**

Hepatitis B immunization for all SALS employees is a banner clinic project this year. Kicking off in November 2007, thirty employees are on track to complete their three dose series of Hepatitis B shots on May 13 at the New River Scarbro site. With the help of Nora Smith R.N. of the Fayette County Health Department, Kristin Giles PA-S of Alderson Broaddus College, and Katie Budenburg of WV School of Osteopathic Medicine, we also gave 28 Flu shots and 20 Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) shots in November and December. These were all provided to SALS employees at no charge. By buying in bulk, New River was

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# Adam Smith's Words Ring True Today

*Rick Wilson, September 23, 2007*

Adam Smith is widely regarded as the patron saint of capitalism. His 1776 book, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* is still widely and justly celebrated.

This wasn't his only accomplishment. He was part of a larger intellectual movement known as the Scottish Enlightenment, along with such thinkers as David Hume and Frances Hutcheson. They were fascinated with questions that would later be taken up by the social sciences. Smith also wrote on the subject of jurisprudence and moral philosophy, or what we might call political science and psychology today.

His views on sympathy as the basis for morality, as developed in his "Theory of Moral Sentiments," actually hold up pretty well in the light of recent research in biology, psychology and brain research.

Smith's enemy in *Wealth of Nations* was mercantilist economic theory, which held that the health of a national economy depended on the accumulation of precious metals and a favorable balance of trade. Mercantilism was often supported by powerful economic interests allied with the state and enjoying monopolies and special privileges. In opposition to this policy, Smith favored a system of free trade and open, competitive markets.

The system he describes and advocates in his most famous work is one of small proprietors, artisans and traders, each of whom, in pursuit of self-interest, promotes the public good.

"It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest," he wrote. "We address ourselves, not to their humanity but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our own necessities but of their advantages." In doing so under conditions of true competition, the public good is often promoted as if by "an invisible hand."

Smith died in 1790, before the industrial revolution, mechanization, and the rise of large-scale businesses, let alone the government-sanctioned corporations, trusts, and giant global industrial or financial organizations that were light years from his world of small-scale competition. These often distort outcomes and result in what economists call market failures, such as monopolies, oligopolies and externalities that can cause a lot of damage to individuals and the public but don't show up on a corporation's bottom line.

One problem with becoming an icon is that people often honor and remember the symbol rather than the real person. Such was the case with Adam Smith, who said some things that might surprise people.

First, while he celebrated truly competitive capitalism,

he didn't trust capitalists very much. Consider these quotes:

• "All for ourselves, and nothing for other people, seems, in every age of the world, to have been the vile maxim of the masters of mankind."

• "People of the same trade seldom meet together, even for merriment and diversion, but the conversation ends in a conspiracy against the public, or in some contrivance to raise prices."

Second, he believed that workers deserve a living wage:

• "It is but equity ... that they who feed, clothe and lodge the whole body of the people, should have such a share of the produce of their own labor as to be themselves tolerable well fed, clothed and lodged."

Third — and here's a real shocker — he believed that the wealthy should pay more in taxes:

"The subjects of every state ought to contribute toward the support of the government, as nearly as possible, in proportion to their respective abilities; that is, in proportion to the revenue which they respectively enjoy under the protection of the state."

Fourth, he believed in the necessity of public investments in infrastructure and public goods. He spoke of the duty of government to support "public institutions and those public works, which, though they may be in the highest degree advantageous to a great society, are, however, of such a nature that the profit could never repay the expense to any individual or small number of individuals, and which it therefore cannot be expected that any individual or small number of individuals should erect or maintain."

If he were alive today, he would probably consider education and health care as examples of this kind of public goods.

Smith and his Scottish Enlightenment allies were not ideologues and were better psychologists than those today who view humans as organic calculating machines. They were pretty, well, enlightened. They recognized that a good society and a healthy capitalist economy depended on a shared prosperity.

As his dear friend the philosopher David Hume put it in 1752, "Every person, if possible, ought to enjoy the fruits of his labour, in a full possession of all the necessaries, and many of the

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# Director's Report

John David

This has been a different period for SALS. On one hand, we are grateful for loyal donations from many people. On the other hand, we are struggling to renew our major grants in order to maintain our activities.

We have received new funding from Wal-Mart via YouthBuild USA, which will permit us to initiate a "green building" initiative. We also were renewed by the Fayette County Commission WV Department of Education, WV Office of Economic Opportunity and, through Appalachian Community Partners, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. Major donations for Energy Express were received from the City of Montgomery, City of Oak Hill, Fayette County Schools, and the Fayette County Commission.

Another reason that this period has been difficult has been health problems for several people who are close to us. Board Chair Helen M. Powell was hospitalized for a period of time and Treasurer Sister Clara Lill is extremely ill. Former Board Chair Elizabeth Hillmann, who we visited in Gainesville, is perky but continues to have eyesight difficulties. Super Secretary Ruth Lanham has a very ill mother, who is now staying with her. Other SALS folks have been ill at times as well but not as seriously as those listed above.

We have opened a new initiative with ACE, a rafting outfitter. ACE advertises family plans and is now including a day of community service with SALS Housing as one of the options during the stay. To date, we have welcomed over 30 people in this manner. Meanwhile, Artie Mullins, Debra Spurlock, and Vickie Smith are bracing for the over 2000 volunteers who will be with us this summer.

Recently, we closed on a 0% loan from the WV Housing Development Fund for the sewage system at our Hilltop housing project. The loan will be coupled by \$5,000 grant from the Fayette County Commission and a similar amount in materials donated by C.I. Thornberg.

SALS received two grants for the walking track at the center in Beards Fork, one from DHHR and the other from the WV Department of Highways. The track, which is now paved, will also have lights, benches, and more features by the end of the year.

Next to the track, a new dormitory is being constructed. It is scheduled to be completed by fall and will house, coupled with our other facility at the former Beards Fork Church of God, more small groups of volunteers.

We want to welcome several new people to the SALS staff. One is Chelsea Shaw who is a VISTA. She assists with our children's programs and designed the annual celebration flyer. Another is Melissa Adkins, who is a Fayette County teacher with our 21<sup>st</sup> Century "Accent Education" Community Learning Center program. Finally, we would like to welcome Anne Lathen, a Fayette County teacher who will direct our summer Energy Express, as well as new construction supervisors Ralph Shockey and Gary Warrick.

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*Bill Austin, Virgil Payne and "Red" Newkirk were our volunteer cooks at the Martin Luther King Breakfast*

The third year of the Expanded Transportation Grant for summer foods will permit us to serve lunches at the Montgomery City Pool during June and August. The City of Montgomery has been a cooperative partner and also provided SALS with funds for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast this past January.

Brenda Winter, Jessica Williams, and Debbie Spurlock have been working diligently on obtaining an array of certifications needed for our HUD Counseling Program. The project has become critically important since the housing crisis hits low income families in many ways. Several of us have also attended meetings hosted by the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, YouthBuild USA, Community Works of WV, Housing Assistance Council, WV Housing Development Fund, and several others.

Lisa Manley, a VISTA, has continued to assist Dr. Dan Doyle with our clinic and the effort to provide every SALS person with Hepatitis B and Tetanus protection. We have invested over \$3000 in vaccine expenses.

Alisha Young, VISTA, has worked on numerous Flex-E-Grant trainings, including one in which 30 youth and staff were certified in CPR and First Aid. She has also assisted AmeriCorp Members David Flick and Josh Shaw with the Group WorkCamp write-ups.

Virgil Payne has continued to work with seniors in various communities. This includes medical visits and support services.

Our Holiday Day event in December was absolutely amazing. Our primary speakers were the UMWA Cecil

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# “Living the Dream” Awarded to Director John David

Dr. John P. David, Professor and Chair of the Department of Social Sciences/ Public Administration at WVU-Tech and Director of the Southern Appalachian Labor School was been awarded the “Living the Dream” Human and Civil Rights Award by the Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday Commission on Saturday, January 19, 2008 as part of the official state observance in Charleston. He was nominated for the award by the Fayette County Commission

Dr. David received one of the five “Living the Dream” awards for his “active involvement in the pursuit of equality for others and being an advocate for social justice”. Each year the Commission presents the awards to those who best exemplify, through action and personal traits, the principles and ideals characterizing Reverend King in his pursuit for social change.

Dr. David met Dr. King in Atlanta in 1966 as he completed Peace Corps training prior to two years of service in Ghana. At that time, Dr. King was planning to visit Ghana as well. But that trip never occurred.

John David was raised in Onaway, Michigan, a small town in the northern part of the state. While attending the University of Michigan, he was inspired by John F. Kennedy to join the Peace Corps. After graduating with a degree in mathematics, he spent two years in Ghana, West Africa teaching math at Prempeh College. It was while in the Peace Corps he decided that economics was the key to social justice and decided to continue his education in that field. Upon leaving the Peace Corps he entered the doctoral program in Economics at West Virginia University (WVU), specializing in labor economics and becoming involved with WVU’s Institute for Labor Studies. While attending WVU he was active in the United Mine Worker’s ‘Miners for Democracy’ reform movement, beginning a history of support for organized labor that continues today. Upon completing his coursework at WVU, he obtained a position teaching economics at West Virginia University Institute of Technology. In 1972 he became chair of the newly created Department of Social Sciences and Public Administration and in the same year was named full professor. John is married to Jan Young and is the father of two grown children, both adopted. Daniel is a native West Virginian and Sadida was born in Peru.

John David is best known as a founder of the Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS). Originally developed to bring educational programs to working people and labor unions, SALS now provides a wide variety of educational and training programs for youth and people of all ages. SALS, centered in Beards Fork, offers after-school programs for children during the school year and Energy Express in the summer. Grants from the Department of



*SALS Director John David addresses Martin Luther King Breakfast at the SALS Community Center*

Labor, HUD, YouthBuild, USDA and other agencies provide training in construction skills to youth and young adults while rehabilitating old houses and building new ones for low-income people in Fayette County. During the last decade 130 homes have been built or rebuilt to code by SALS crews and volunteers and over 700 have been repaired and weatherized.

SALS has also become a magnet for volunteer groups from across the country bringing over 2,000 volunteers a year to the area. A year ago, he arranged for Martin Luther King III to visit Fayette County as part of the national “Realizing the Dream” campaign to investigate continued poverty in America and recently joined Mr. King in presenting the report from 35 sites (including West Virginia) to House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi and other Members of Congress. He is a founder of the West Virginia Rainbow Coalition and was active in both of Jesse Jackson’s campaigns for the presidency. He also served on the board of the National Rainbow Coalition. In 1985 he was instrumental in bringing Jesse Jackson to WVU-Tech as a commencement speaker.

At his workplace, John is a long-time representative to the statewide Advisory Council of Faculty and has served on the West Virginia Board of Trustees of the university system and as chair of WVU Tech’s Faculty Assembly. He is a regular member of the legislative committee and has waged a persistent battle to allow higher education employees to serve in the legislature. He serves on the Region I Workforce Investment Board and in 1990 he was runner-up for West Virginia Professor of the Year awarded by the Faculty Merit Foundation.

# A Big Year for Volunteers

by Artie Mullins, Volunteer/Building Coordinator & AmeriCorps

Our volunteers began arriving in January with the visit of the New York students from the Hillel organization at Binghamton. The students were part of a Jewish student organization that has chapters worldwide. Hillel is known for its volunteerism, and has been involved in such activities for many years. Rabbi Shalom was the leader of this group of students and he hopes to return to Beards Fork on a regular basis. Our relationship with Hillel began last summer when we had a visit from a Hillel leader, who was interested in serving in this area. Hillel will partner with Global Volunteers to send a number of groups to serve at SALS for the next few years. It was exciting to have these students aboard. Our youth were exposed to people and ideas that previously they had no knowledge of. It was a learning experience for everyone involved. The Hillel group had a wonderful time here and did a lot of work on the Beards Fork dorm. Rabbi Shalom had nothing but good things to say about SALS, its youth and the work that we are doing. We look forward to the return of our Hillel friends.

March was a very busy month for me and everyone at SALS. We hosted students from Vanderbilt University, Rutgers University, University of Illinois, Madison area technical College from Indiana, University of Virginia, and Rochester Institute of Technology from New York; as well as a group of Global Volunteers. Many of the students worked with Ralph at the Hilltop site and conveyed to me that Ralph was a very competent and delightful supervisor. Ralph almost single-handedly supervised over 100 youth at the Hilltop site. (Thank you Ralph for being so patient and supportive of the volunteers.) The remainder of the volunteers served at various sites, including the dorm at Beards Fork, the after school program, the David House in Oak Hill, and several other sites. The college volunteers were tripled up, at times, at the community center in Beards Fork. They shared the bathrooms and kitchen and slept on inflatable mattresses. It was a festive time for the students, and they enjoyed the close quarters as well as musical entertainment provided by Billy Payne, Harold Allen and Terri Lively. It was a learning experience for the college students as well as a community and our youth. Our young people at the sites and at the after school program are always enriched by their interaction with the college students, who so willingly devote their time to our efforts here at SALS.

The year has barely begun and so many volunteers have already passed through our small community. The remainder of the year will bring us over a thousand more volunteers from organizations such as Global Volunteers, Christian Endeavor, Group Work Camps and other religious and civic groups. The inspiration and incredible amount of

work that these volunteers contribute cannot be underestimated and SALS deeply appreciates their spirit of volunteerism and sense of civic duty.

## It's Group WorkCamp time again

Debra Spurlock, Housing Specialist

The past few months has been very busy. Along with the warm weather comes lots of preparation. Yes, it's Group WorkCamp time again. Lots of time and planning goes into preparing for the campers to come. Homes have to be identified, measurements taken, descriptions written, sketches drawn and directions taken. The direction part is very important. These youth and their adult leaders are from all over the world so they need very specific directions within one tenth of a mile. This year I've had the help of Alicia Young, (one of the new VISTA's at SALS), Dave Flick (Americorp), John Wood, Joey Taylor and Ashley Vanateer (Youthbuild members). They have been out writing up folks, getting directions and completing applications. Before we know it the campers will be here, helping to make our communities a brighter place to live.

Group Workcamp is just one part of the housing programs at SALS. I am also a Housing Counselor and along with Jessica Williams and Brenda Winter teach monthly classes on Home-Buyer Education. Almost anywhere you go to get a loan for a home you must have a certificate showing you completed the required eight hour course. Not only do we help folks purchase a new home, we also help them with home repairs through our rehab program. This requires lots of paper work also. I have to verify peoples' income, find out if they are in the flood zone, make sure it isn't a historical site, and complete lots of other paperwork. SALS helps consumers with all aspects of the housing industry.

I am also the person in charge of the SHARE program. SHARE stands for Self-Help and Resource Exchange. SHARE provides a monthly food package in exchange for \$20 in cash or food stamp and 2 hours of community service in your local town, school or church. They also have special monthly packages that you can purchase separately for various prices. Each month I take the orders, call them in, collect the money or call in for an approval on the food stamp card, deposit the money, write the check, complete the necessary paperwork and mail it all in. Then, on distribution day, I have to meet the truck in Oak Hill at 6:00 a.m., load the food, bring it back to Beards Fork, unload the food and prepare the required number of boxes. Then we wait for the people to come and pick up their boxes. My husband, Carlos and my son, Brandon, help me with this Saturday project.

We also have a FEMA program where qualified folks can get help with disconnects on utility bills and help with food. I also cover this program which requires lots of paperwork. So as you see, my days are quite busy. But it is a joy to help others which we try to do every way we can.

# SALS Housing Report

*Vickie Smith, Construction Manager*

Spring is here and we are hard at work. We have completed several major rehabs and have a new Hilltop house completed and ready to go as soon as the sewer project is completed. We also have two other homes that should be completed by the end of the year. I would like to be able to get two more foundations ready in the near future. We still need to get a lot of work done on the SALS dorm and hope this will take place as soon as our large groups come in that have some construction skills.

We have had some staff changes in our supervisor positions. Dave Shaver left us for other employment and George Hensley had to leave us due to health issues. We were sad to see them go but we have found two other supervisors to replace them. They are Ralph Shockey and Gary Warrick. I think that the two of them will be great addition to our SALS family and look forward to working with them. I think we will all have a very productive year. In addition, we still have the best equipment operator around the area and that is, of course, my dad Sidney. The organization is very fortunate to have him and his long hours of volunteer work, but I am the luckiest one of all because he is *my Dad!*

We now have some half time youth from the Fayette Institute of Technology as part time AmeriCorps members and they rock. They have been working on one of the houses at Hilltop and it is taking shape very nicely. They are doing the work basically by themselves without supervision and have done all the framing on the second floor of the home. It looks very professional to this point. Guys keep up the good work!

I am trying to learn more on Green Building through some reading, research and some training. Hopefully, I will be taking some Green Building classes in the near future. The organization needs to be able to compete for some grants and it looks as if this will be a "must" in order to receive certain funding. So I guess it time for me to learn some new things and pass them on to others. Hopefully in the next year or so this will happen. You know the story *it's hard to teach an old dog new tricks!!*

## Ralph's News

*Ralph Shockey, Site Supervisor*

I've been working on Hilltop and a rehab roof. My crew and I worked with several volunteers from Rochester Institute of Technology, Vanderbilt, Global Volunteers, and a Michigan group through ACE Whitewater. I was with SALS several years ago and then I left for Michigan. Now I'm back and I really like being part of the SALS team. We are looking forward to a great summer and continuing to build a new house at Hilltop. We have finally finished House #3 at Hilltop and the home owner is anxious to move in. Here's to a great year!

*SALS Journal*



*Volunteers & staff hoist wall for our new dorms*

## Housing Challenges

*by Jessica Williams, Housing Counselor*

We have been keeping very busy with housing here at our WVU Tech office.. Brenda Winter and Debbie Spurlock and I have attended several trainings with various organizations. We have been to trainings such as Loan Origination, Calyx Training (housing software), and introduction to the West Virginia Housing Development Fund's HOME program in Charleston, WV.

I have also been meeting with clients to prepare them for purchasing a home. We have been working on things such as budget counseling, credit counseling, debt management, and the entire home-buying process.

With the housing market being in such a slump, many of our clients have been faced with foreclosures. Most of them had purchased their home about 10 years ago with an Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM) Loan with a 30 year term. The adjustable rate had reach an all time high, increasing their payment by up to twice of what is was. SALS offers foreclosure prevention counseling with hopes of keeping folks from losing their houses. Qualifying families may be eligible for a 5 yr 0% interest loan with Community Works of West Virginia by contacting me at 304.442.3156 to assist them with delinquent payments in hopes to bring them out of default with their mortgage company.

I have also been working with Director John David submitting grant proposals. Most of these grants must be submitted online, and I assist in making this process a little less painful.

At our offices located at WVU Tech in Montgomery, we have been working with college students who are trying to accumulate community service hours for graduation. They are doing everything from making copies, cleaning debris, and working with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century "Accent Education" after school program.

It has been an adventure working with Brenda, John, Alisha, and Ruth. In a way we are our own little "dis" functional family.



# Housing Training

by Brenda Winter

For the past several months I have been to several training sessions and have received certifications in Pre-Purchase and Post-Purchase education. This training will help us to improve our housing counseling. We work with clients helping them purchase their homes and to keep the homes in good condition after they buy them. I am now in the process of assisting two clients to buy homes in Fayette County. It takes a lot of work to help them become credit ready to purchase.

I am also working with Debbie Spurlock and Jessica Williams (the other counselors on our team) in preparing a workshop for our YouthBuild and other trainees on budgeting and how credit can affect their future. They may not think of their future at this point in their lives but this training may help them to understand how their credit affects what is possible. When they have families of their own this training will hopefully keep them from making mistakes that may jeopardize their hopes of owning homes themselves someday.

## VISTA Review

by Lisa Manley, VISTA Volunteer

Hey from SALS! Can you believe it's time for newsletters again? Time goes by so fast when we are busy. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Dan Doyle came to our Holiday dinner and gave everyone an extra gift. That is, we got our second Hepatitis B shot and as an added bonus those of us who needed a Tetanus shot received one of those, too. It is a gift that will last a lifetime. Our third and final Hepatitis B shot is scheduled to be given in May. SALS, in conjunction with New River Health, is dedicated to trying to keep everyone at SALS as healthy as possible. Dr. Doyle is continuing to come to Beards Fork on a regular basis and is providing base line physicals as well as wellness checks.

In January we celebrated Martin Luther King Day by having a community breakfast, sponsored in part by the City of Montgomery. We delivered meals to several senior citizens in our area. This is the second year we have had the breakfast and since it was such a success we hope to have one every year. Everyone enjoyed the good food and the guest speakers. We also showed the original "I Have a Dream" speech on a projection screen.

In February, Vickie Mullins, Charlene Newkirk, and myself attended a training in Charleston called "Celebrating Connections". It was very informative and we got really nice tote bags.

In March we had a fund-raiser. We sold chicken dinners and with the money we raised, we held an Easter

party and egg hunt. We had a good turnout and three kids found lucky eggs with money inside. All of the eggs were filled with candy which the kids got to take home and each child received a big chocolate bunny. We also gave out prizes for the most eggs found and in an unexpected twist we also gave a prize to the ones that found the least eggs. So everyone was happy. This too is something we are hoping to have annually.

In April the kids in our school system had their spring break. We took this opportunity to reorganize the rooms used for homework and crafts. We also cleaned up the playground and restocked supplies.

We have had a lot of volunteers these past months and I want them to know how much we appreciate them for coming here.

## Greetings from Chelsea

Chelsea Shaw, Vista

Hello everyone! My name is Chelsea Shaw, I recently moved here from Oregon after getting married to AmeriCorps\* member Joshua Shaw last July. I started the VISTA volunteer program toward the end of February.

During the day I do various tasks and planning to help prepare for the After School Program in the afternoon. After the kids arrive, my day involves helping the kids with their homework, crafts, preparing meals and snacks, supervising the playground and taking the kids back home at the end of the day. For Easter I had the chance to help with the fundraiser and the planning for the Easter Egg Hunt Party that took place March the 22<sup>nd</sup>! I have really enjoyed working with the kids and everyone involved in the After School Program and am very excited to be here!

Editor's note: *Chelsea is also a talented graphic artist and designed the poster for the Solidarity Fest on the back cover of this newsletter.*



*Volunteers cross hammers getting ready to frame the new dorm at SALS Community Center*

# Beards Fork Walking Track Takes Shape

By Alisha Young, VISTA Volunteer

When I was assigned the task of organizing the construction of a walking trail to go with our New River Health (Healthy Living Program), I was extremely nervous and unprepared. With the guidance from our construction manager, Vickie Smith, things began to come along a little easier. We had several meetings with the grant funding people to help us decide the best construction plan to start this trail.

I started by calling different paving companies to get some construction bids on paving the walking trail. It took several months to make a final decision because of weather and when the asphalt came into season. During the month of April we finally made a decision as to which company we were going to go with and the firm begin construction on the trail on May 5th and had the trail completed within a couple of days. To my amazement my stress was unneeded because things went very smoothly. We are currently working on the final touches to the walking trail so that it can be used within the next couple of weeks. We are also talking about adding a couple of games in the center of the Walking Track for a little fun for the children when their parents are utilizing the track. It has already turned out to be a great success.

The other initiative that I've also been working on is finding and writing up houses to get some repairs done on their homes free of charge by Group WorkCamp. I, along with three other SALS staff, go around the Oak Hill area to Smithers, Ansted, and along Midland Trail, to write-up houses for the youth to work on. It is a great opportunity for low income families to get this work done while enjoying the youth who are doing the work on their homes. I am honestly enjoying helping these people obtain this free service and be part of the effort in getting the work done.

I am looking forward to the success and completion of the two work weeks of Group WorkCamps and the proper completion of the Beards Fork Walking Track.

## Flex-E-Grant Workshops

By Alisha Young VISTA Volunteer

Since I've become a VISTA there have been several Flex-E-Grant workshops I have helped put together and organize. The first one was the annual Christmas Dinner at the Beards Fork Community Center. We had several speakers come and talk to the youth and staff. Those speakers included UMWA President Cecil Roberts and

Senator Nick Rahall. The staff also prepared a great feast so that everyone had a chance to break bread together like a family. The next event was Martin Luther King Jr. Day breakfast that was also held at the Beards Fork Community Center. The local TV news channels covered the event. Several speakers talked about Dr. King and we also showed a video tape of highlights of his life.

The next series of workshops that were held were Children's Day at the Legislature and Housing Day at the Legislature. During Children's Day at the Legislature we took several of our after school program youth to meet some of their own state delegates and talk about the new changes for the next school year. Housing Day at the Legislature was very different because we had our housing counselors Brenda, Jessica, Debbie showcase what type of housing that we offer. On that day we also took with us a group of college students who were volunteering at SALS to enjoy the day in Charleston.

The next series of Workshops were skill oriented. The first consisted of two representatives from BB&T who came to talk to some of our youth about proper bank account etiquette and how to properly apply for a loan. The next involved getting the youth and supervisors certified and re-certified in First Aid and C.P.R. training. That workshop was a big success because 30 of us got certified and we enjoyed ourselves.

The most recent workshop that I helped to organize was entitled a "New Cultural Outlook". We showed many slides including times from the Civil Rights movement and on current people's movement topics. Steve Rutledge and I gave brief background history was our ancestry and how all immigrants came to America for the same goal: to have their voices heard by voting and participating in state politics. During this current workshop we managed to get six out of eighteen participants registered to vote. I think that alone was a great accomplishment.

I am currently working on setting up more Flexi-Grant workshops and I hope that we have continued success.



Jessica Williams & Alisha Young at Housing Day at the WV Legislaive Session in March



## Holiday Luncheon Hosts VIPs

by Gary Zuckett, social justice organizer

SALS held a community luncheon December 21st that was part seminar and part celebration. John David opened the afternoon event with a big welcome for our guest speakers, Cecil Roberts, president of the UMWA, and our 2nd district US Representative Nick Rahall. Both speakers stressed the importance of our state and nation taking on the task of covering everyone with health care. Rep Rahall commented on the need to reinvest in America to rebuild our infrastructure and put folks back to work.

Katie Buddenberg, a medical student from WV SOM gave a talk on the benefits of vaccinations as part of a Flexi-Grant series of workshops for SALS board and staff. Hepatitis B vaccinations were available to any who needed one offered by Dr. Dan Doyle of New River Health Center

After the presentations and speeches the food was served and everyone had a grand lunch. A book distribution was the highlight of the afternoon for the kids as they all got to pick from a variety of new books donated to the community center from publishers overstocks and returns. All in all it was a great way to kickoff the holiday season and get ready for the new year.



*Congressman Rahall speaks to TV reporter during the SALS Holiday Community Luncheon in December*

## YouthBuild Update

by Kathryn South, YouthBuild/AmeriCorps/DOL staff

This has been a strange Spring again. It seems almost a repeat of last year's weather, just not as severe. Lots of activities are going on this Spring. Folks are working all over the county as usual; the youth who were working on our dorm in Beards Fork have been moved to Hilltop and other sites around the county. We welcome Ralph Shockey back to SALS after a long hiatus away from working with the folks here, but he is working out great in his new position as a site supervisor at Hilltop. Gary Warrick also is new to the task of working with staff and youth on a daily basis, but he seem to be handling it pretty well. Welcome to both!!

Two of our members had a good time in DC earlier this Spring representing the organization at a Youth Conference. They met with our senators and discussed the plight of youth who do not get an opportunity to be a YouthBuild member because of funding cuts and lack of grant money to continue the good work that all YouthBuild programs do around the county. It seems this information helped to get more people to sign the letter to Congress asking for increased funding for YouthBuild. Now we have to wait and see what happens. Anyway, this experience is good for our youth finding out what the process is all about in trying to get representatives to listen to their story.

We are looking forward to having more volunteers come back this Summer to do home repairs and learning about WV and its people. Hopefully they will return again and again to our state and spend those hard earned dollars



*Mineworkers President Cecil Roberts and SALS staff Kathryn South catch up on old times at the December Celebration*

*Continued on next page*

## *YouthBuild, Continued from last page*

at our area stores and visit our beautiful parks and rivers, And, hopefully, bring more people with them when they return.

### **The National Rural Caucus**

*by David Buck, YouthBuild Member*

I attended the YouthBuild National Rural Caucus in Washington, DC on March 28-30, 2008

The Rural Caucus was a bunch of people from small towns all over the United States. During the two days we had to learn to open up to each other and tell about our lives and personal issues that we all go through. We also talked about unity and opportunity for young people from their communities as well as our.

The two things that I have learned is that people are different from each other no matter where they live. The other thing I learned is that there are people out there who will listen to me and listen to what I have to say about my community and other people's communities. I hope that more YouthBuild members would open up like I did and try to do the best that they can do to help our communities.

*Conby Melissa Figuero, YouthBuild Member*

I also attended the YouthBuild National Rural Caucus in Washington, DC. The Rural Youth Caucus was a very great learning experience for me. I learned about opportunity, unity, and career development. We talked about personal issues that deal with our lives and how it affects the people that surround us in our everyday activities. I met some really great YouthBuild students from other programs throughout the United States.

Each YouthBuild program was different because some have a graduation after 10 months and each state has different opportunities. I think that we should try to offer more to our YouthBuild members and our program would do better that it is doing now. The National Rural Youth Caucus has taught me a lot about the other YouthBuild programs and has opened my eyes to what this program is really about. I hope the more people get to go to the next Caucus because it is a life changing event.



Yi Yun (top center) , a Global Volunteer from Shanghai, poses with afterschool youth

## **After School & More**

*by Charlene "Red" Newkirk*

SALS 21st Century "Accent Education's" after school program, School Day Plus, operates Monday through Thursday from 2-6-PM. This program at SALS Community Center serves nearly forty children from Oakhill Elementary, Collins Middle, Valley Elementary, Valley Middle and Valley High.

School Day Plus offers homework tutoring, crafts, cooking and various other activities to promote learning. Both a snack and supper are served each day. Our recent field trips included Children's Day at the legislature, a basketball game between Collins and Valley Middle Schools, and a performance of the Collins Band of which two of the players attend our after school program!

The All Stars program seeks to prevent risky behaviors and promote a positive hope for the future among young people. All Stars focus on the middle school years - ages 11 to 15. We currently have 7 students participating in All Stars who meet once a week on Fridays.

Two Valley Elementary students who come to our School Day Plus entered the math fair and the spelling bee and both placed well in the competitions.

Mercedes Newkirk, a former student and volunteer was recently honored with the Martin Luther King/Lucille Smallwood Meadows Award. She has also been accepted into the National Honor Society of Valley High School. She is a member of the varsity girls basketball team, RAZE homecoming committee, peer mediation, Math Field Day, Student Council and good kid program. Currently she serves as the president of her student body. She has also represented Valley High School in the USA Junior Nationals All-State basketball competition. Can you tell I'm a proud mom!

I would like to thank Iris Adkins, our AmeriCorps/



VISTA van driver, and Debbie Ferri & Lisa Keffer the after school teachers for being a part of us, we'll miss you.

## All Stars Strive for Improvement

by Charlene "Red" Newkirk, 21st Century 'Accent Education' Program

Southern Appalachian Labor School's after-school programs include the All Star Program. It is a program that intends to prevent drug, alcohol, & tobacco use as well as to bullying among peers. This program is for middle school students and comes to SALS through the SPF-SIG substance abuse prevention funds awarded the Fayette County Prevention Partnership through the Division of Criminal Justice Services & the WV Prevention Resource Center. Participating students participate in 13 sessions that encourage them to think about the future of their dreams. The youth then come up with 9 commitments that will help them reach the goals they create for themselves. At the end of this program, students will have created a movie of themselves and the 9 commitments (represented by the 9 stars). At a final celebration, students will receive a prize of their choice. The movie they create, along with their All Star prize, will help to remind them of the commitments they have made to reach the best life they can imagine.

## New Projects at SALS

Vickie Mullins, VISTA Supervisor

There are a lot of new projects going on at SALS. We recently hired a new VISTA to replace Iris Adtkins. Hundreds of volunteers have been here in the past months helping out, working with the youth on the Dorm in (Beards Fork) and doing Rehabs (through out Fayette County).

The VISTAs have been busy working with the After School program and getting ready for Energy Express. We have had several fund-raisers to help our children's program. SALS and the Beards Fork Community Organization collaborated to raise money by selling chicken dinners for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! The children enjoyed the party because they were able to get out side, run, play, find eggs, and receive lots of candy. We also gave away three lucky eggs which contained \$5.00 in them. The Day was a success. Over fifty kids along with parents came out for the event! We also gave away chocolate bunnies, pizza chips, pop, and prizes. We raised close to \$400.00. With the monies left, we plan to reinstate Bingo night.

The new program that I've been helping with is called "All Stars" Every Friday, Red and myself coordinated this program along with about 10 kids. The program is designed to help kids talk about their feelings concerning : Drugs, Alcohol, and marijuana. We also discussed how peers can influence them. The material we presented to the kids which is published by Tanglewood Research, is



*All Stars built a positive future after school*

very informative. Through this program, I can see a brighter Future for the kids!

## Spring Fever

by Charlene "Red" Newkirk, 21st Century 'Accent Education' Program

At the SALS after school program, the youth are feeling the spring fever. We are all familiar with the wild WV spring weather: summer-like temperatures for days and then, SLAM, she hits us with cold, winter temperatures. On one such day, the youth at the after school program were needing to get some wiggles out. We all talked about the benefits of exercise and decided to channel that after-school energy by doing some exercises. Youth gathered around the TV and proceeded to "walk it out," kick, side step, and do knee lifts. We all know that it is usually more fun to solve the wiggles problem outside. However, when WV spring is warm one day & winter-like the next, indoor exercise is the next best thing. We'd like to give a shout out to the SALS youth who were willing to get up & get their bodies moving.



*Spring fever hits afterschool youth*



# Mining Communities Vital to Black History

By *JEFF BIGGERS*

*Reprinted from 2-24-08 Knoxville News Sentinel.*

As schools, communities and politicians across the country celebrate Black History Month, they will be remiss if their lessons don't include the coal fields of Fayette County, W.Va. There, in the 1890s, a teenage African-American followed his brothers into the coal mines, serving what Carter Woodson called his "six-year apprenticeship." In the evenings, the young Woodson would gather with other black coal miners, read the newspaper, and listen to their extraordinary stories of life underground and their struggles during the Civil War and Reconstruction Era.

The daily history lessons among African-Americans in Appalachia were not lost on Woodson. He later wrote that his "interest in penetrating the past of my people was deepened and intensified" during these sessions among coal miners in Fayette County. Woodson managed to return to high school in Huntington, W.Va. — the access to education for African-Americans being one of the reasons his family had chosen to come to Appalachia — and earned his diploma in two years. He moved on to earn a degree at Berea College, which had been founded in the hills of eastern Kentucky by abolitionists in 1855, the University of Chicago and then a doctorate in history at Harvard University.

Woodson went on, of course, to become the Father of Black History and one of our country's most celebrated historians. Few people realized, however, that West Virginia once again played prominently in Woodson's career in 1920, when the young black professor lost his job at Howard University and became a dean at the West Virginia Collegiate Institute. There, in West Virginia, Woodson finally received a substantial grant from the Carnegie Foundation that allowed him to return to Washington, D.C., and set his Association for the Study of Negro Life and History on a course for world acclaim.

Woodson's and Black History Month's largely overlooked origins in West Virginia are not the only casualty in our selective memory on American history.

A century after Woodson's tenure in the coal mines in West Virginia, another first took place in Fayette County. In 1970, the first mountaintop removal operation was launched on Cannelton Hollow in an area once called Bullpush Mountain. Thirty-eight years later, mountaintop removal practices — the process of literally blowing up mountains and dumping the waste into waterways and valleys in order to cheaply remove coal — have destroyed more than 450 mountains and neighboring communities, displaced miners and strip-mined the cultural landscape in the Appalachian region.

This catastrophic form of coal mining has robbed Appalachia of too much of its history in the process. If

anything, it should remind the nation that the neglect and degradation of a region and its history have always mirrored the neglect and abuse of the land.

In a speech at Hampton Institute in Virginia, Woodson once reminded the audience: "We have a wonderful history behind us. ... If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, 'You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.' They will say to you, 'Who are you anyway?'"

Appalachians understand this bitter historical reality more than any other citizens in the United States. Black Appalachians, especially.

Last year, for example, I was supposed to speak at a school in Chicago in February. But the organizer called me at the last moment and asked to reschedule until April, since a book I had written about "those people down there" didn't relate to Black History Month. But Black History Month was launched by an Appalachian coal miner, I told my host. Booker T. Washington, the most celebrated black spokesman from last century, also emerged out of the coal-mining communities in Appalachia; Martin Delany, the first black nationalist in the 19th century, who helped to launch Frederick Douglass' first newspaper, came out of West Virginia. So did Henry Louis Gates, the prominent African-American literary critic at Harvard.

I went on. Do you know that Bessie Smith, the "Empress of the Blues," took her songs from the streets of Blue Goose Hollow in Chattanooga, just as W.C. Handy, the "Father of the Blues," composed his masterpieces from the sounds of his native hills of northern Alabama? That Nina Simone, the "High Priestess of Soul," always performed folk ballads from her native western North Carolina mountains? That, in fact, black guitar and banjo players were the stylists for much of the early country music, gospel and folk songs?

Did you know that four months before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus in 1955, she took a seat at the Highlander Folk School in the backwoods of Tennessee, where she attended strategy session on social action led by so-called radical hillbillies? That the first desegregated school to graduate a black student in the South was in the mountains of Tennessee?

And did you know that the United Mine Workers have always been an integrated union? Coal miners and coal-mining communities in Appalachia and around the country should be celebrated during Black History Month, not dismissed or forgotten.

The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting, author Milan Kundera wrote about his native Czech Republic. He added in an interview with American novelist Philip Roth, "Forgetting is a form of death ever present within life."

There is a lot of forgetting and death taking place in our nation's memory about Appalachia's destruction today.

Carter Woodson, who was mocked when he first arrived in Washington, D.C., for his "hayseed clothes," never forgot the importance of his origins.

Hopefully, some brave men and women will act to preserve Woodson's and Appalachia's great heritage before it is strip-mined into oblivion.

Jeff Biggers has worked as a writer, educator, radio correspondent and community organizer across the United States, Europe, India and Mexico. He is the author of "The United States of Appalachia," among other books.

## **"A New Cultural Outlook"**

*by Steve Rutledge & Alisha Young*

On Friday April 18th SALS offered its work teams a 2 hour workshop entitled "A New Cultural Outlook" that featured 2 presenters: our own VISTA Volunteer, Alisha Young, and Civil Rights Veteran, Steve Rutledge, from Greenbrier County.

Alisha and Steve began by comparing their diverse backgrounds.

Differences were obvious. Alisha is a young (20s) African American woman and Steve is an older (60s) Caucasian male. But they then described their respective heritages and found remarkable similarities. Alisha's grandparents moved to the USA from the island nation of Jamaica for economic opportunity. And later Alisha's mom and family moved from New Jersey to Fayette County West Virginia. Alisha is almost finished with becoming the first college graduate in her family. Recently, Alisha represented SALS in Washington DC at the Conference of Young Leaders Rural Caucus.

Steve's grandparents moved from the Ukraine in eastern Europe at the turn of the last century to escape the pogroms, or ghettos, that Jewish people had to endure there at that time. Steve's father was born in the U.S. and became the first college graduate in his family.

Steve graduated from Tugaloo College in Mississippi in 1964 during the days of the civil rights movement where he was very active in protesting discrimination and registering new voters. He was one of two whites who attended and graduated from the historically Black college at that time. He was arrested three times for his activities and is proud of what he did. He described working with the civil rights leader Medgar Evers before he was murdered by a Ku Klux Klan leader and what it was like to drive Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the airport in an emergency evacuation during a riot in Jackson, Mississippi.

The workshop participants asked Alisha and Steve various interesting questions particularly about how does all this pertain to today's world. Alisha pointed out that if you are concerned with the high cost of gasoline at the pump, or the cost of a gallon of milk, or the lack of affordable housing or any number of other important concerns then one important thing to do is make sure you are registered to vote.

Your vote does make a difference. And with that, six SALS team members either registered to vote or updated their registration with their current address during the



*MLK Day breakfast buffet at SALS Community Center*

workshop.

Alisha and Steve are appreciative of the work SALS is doing. As a token of appreciation of that Alisha read a poem she wrote which goes as follows:

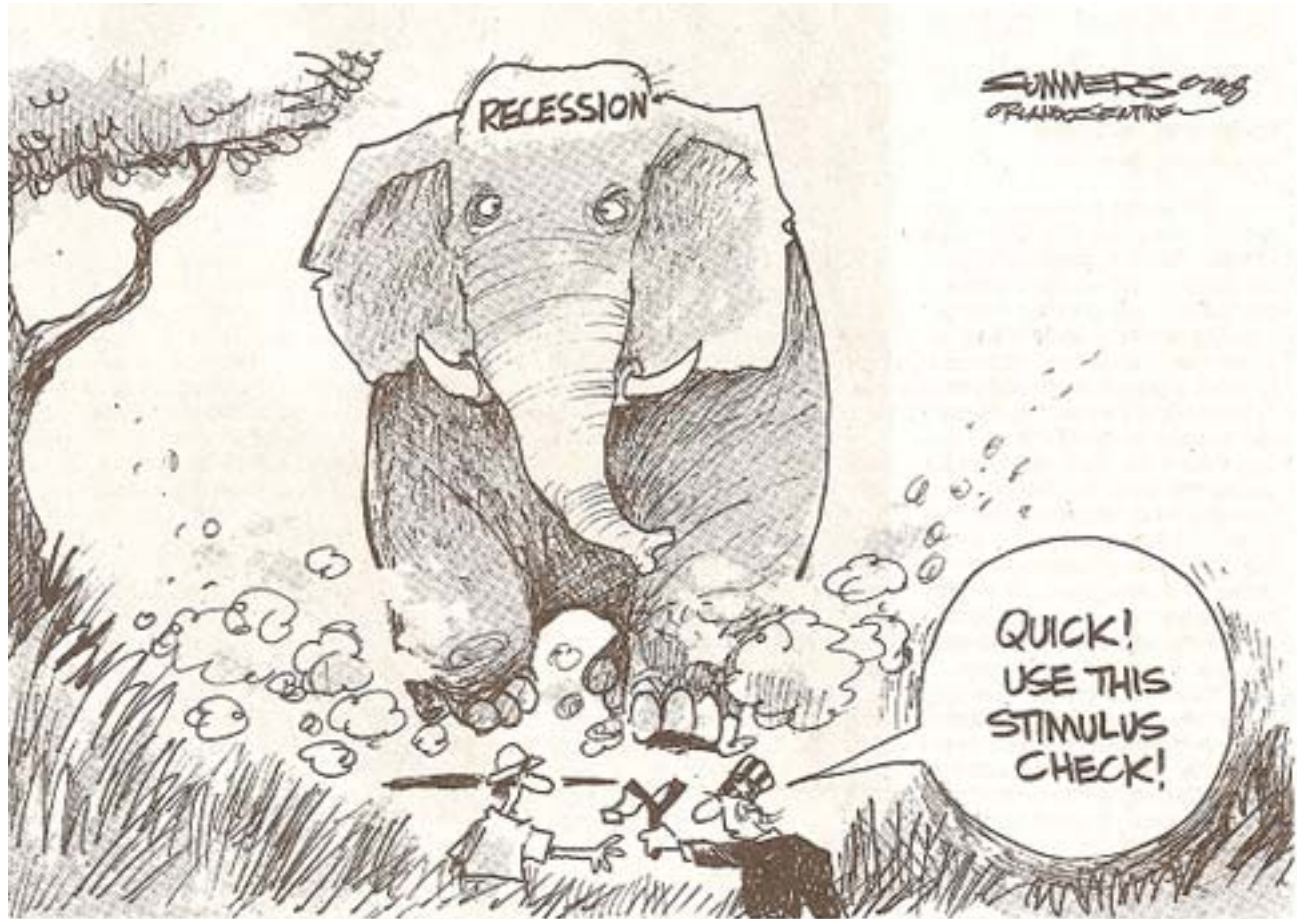
*Immigrants came to be free. My family, yours, we all ended up in "America" for new hope, to start a new life. Some of our grandparents' and great-grandparents' never got to see the freedoms that we have for today. All minorities are here for one goal: to get educated and to have their voices heard. To vote, have a better life than their parents and generations before them, to have a better life. The American Dream is to work, have children, raise them, retire and relax. In no particular order that is what most peoples' goals are, and along the way have your opinions and voices heard, voting, go to school for higher education, or just plain telling it like it is, in some way we all want somebody to listen to what we have to say*

*Although you may think standing in line is unimportant, or the history of the people's movement is just very boring. It happened. It happened and is still happening so these people who risked their lives, so their grandchildren wouldn't have to go through the struggles of discrimination, prejudice and down right just being treated like dirt.*

*Each culture had their own struggles. In my own blood line flows English, Irish, and Jamaican slave blood that I'm very proud of. I try so hard because by the time my grandparent's were my age they may have not had the education that I have but they had way more life experience.*

*I hope that you have got something out of listening to your grandparent's history, the people's movement history, and the history that is being made everyday.*





*Clinic, continued from page one*

able to provide a 3 shot Hepatitis B series to SALS for \$105 per employee. The same series obtained individually costs \$225 at New River.

**The Clinic needs more patients**

"I really enjoy my Fridays at Beards Fork," says Dr. Doyle. "I like meeting the YouthBuild workers. I like working with Lisa Manley and the other SALS staff. SALS provides a great combination of learning and work experience to youth in our community. For some, it provides a second chance for youth who need and deserve it. I'm glad we've been able to make health care a part of the Youth-Build package."

Dr. Doyle would like to see SALS staff and the community make better use of the clinic. "For this service to pay for itself, we need to be doing 10-15 visits every time I'm here. In the first 5 months of 2008, we've ranged from 2 to 11 visits per session with an average of 6. To continue, we have to do better than that. I know the need is here and I hope more people will choose to receive their care here."

To make an appointment call Lisa Manley at the Beards Fork Center 779-2280.

*Adam Smith, continued from page two*

conveniences of life. No one can doubt, but such an equality is most suitable to human nature, and diminishes much less from the happiness of the rich than it adds to that of the poor."

I suggest we unleash some of that.

Wilson is director of the American Friends Service Committee's WV Economic Justice Project and publishes *The Goat Rope*, a daily public affairs blog: [www.goatropel.blogspot.com](http://www.goatropel.blogspot.com).

*Director, continued from page three*

Roberts and Congressman Nick J. Rahall. Dr. Dan Doyle and the staff gave everyone Hepatitis B and Tetanus shots. Dr. Barry Harrison distributed and donated children's books and many guests from the community were present for the delicious dinner.

Our pilot AmeriCorps project with seniors in Vince Smith's Building Construction program at the Fayette Institute of Technology is going very well. The seniors receive a stipend and education award while completing their senior year working with SALS Housing.

The Solidarity Cultural Festival this year will be on June 14<sup>th</sup> in honor of Flag Day and Juneteenth. Juneteenth is celebrated as the day of the Emancipation Proclamation by former president Abraham Lincoln. West Virginia was the only state formed as a result of the Proclamation and the Civil War.

Two of our long-term supervisors have been transitioned. Dave Shaver has taken a new job with a coal company and George Hensley has had to scale back activities for health reasons.

We wish to express "Thanks" to UMWA President Cecil Roberts for making arrangements with Governor Manchin and the WV Legislature for special assistance to SALS during the recent legislative session.



# Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

**SALS Community Center: 800-515-1349,  
304-779-2772, or 779-2280**  
**WVU-Tech office: 304-442-3042**  
**Construction Coordinator: 304-469-9721**  
**John David, Director - 304-442-3157**  
**WEB: www.sals.info**

Ron Yellets	YouthBuild Trainer
Ralph Shockey	YouthBuild Trainer
Gary Warrick	YouthBuild Trainer
George Hensley, Jr	YouthBuild Trainer
Jimmy Adkins	YouthBuild Trainer
Terry Black	YouthBuild Trainer
Jessica Williams	Housing Counselor/WIA

## Board Officers

Helen M. Powell	Chair
Marcus Wilkes	Vice Chair
Kathryn South-Adkins*	Secretary ksouth@citynet.net
Sister Clara Lill	Treasurer
John David*	Director jdavid@citynet.net

## 21st Century 'Accent Education' After School Program:

Charlene Newkirk	Site Coordinator
Tony Canada	Project Director
Lisa Manley	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Chelsea Shaw	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Alisha Young	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Melissa Adkins	Teacher

## Project Staff

\* Indicates members of the SALS Leadership Team

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**New River/Beards Fork Health Clinic Project**  
Dr. Dan Doyle, M.D.

**Who We Are:**  
**Energy Express**  
Anne Lathen

**G.E.D. Instructors/Fayette Co. Schools**  
Lee Ann Gore & Mary Lynn Flint  
**WVU Extension Service**  
Dianne Meadows  
 Debbie Tate & Cassandra Bandy  
**Bookkeeping Team**  
Valarie Cowley, Ruth Lanham  
Tom Bass, Brenda Winter



**Yes,** in these difficult times I understand the importance of an organization like the Southern Appalachian Labor School. Enclosed is my contribution to keep your essential work on track and moving forward. Contributions to SALS are Tax deductible: Mail to SALS POB 127, Kincaid, WV 25119

**Enclosed is: \_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$25 Other\$\_\_\_\_\_**

*Or print a donation form at [www.sals.info](http://www.sals.info)*

*Please send me a thank you gift..*

*\_\_\_\$50 +: SALS Handmade Coffee Mug, SALS License Plate, or similar item*

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SALS engages in solicitation for the purpose of acquiring funds to support the Southern Appalachian Labor School. WV residents may obtain a summary of our registration and financial documents from the Sec. of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.



*Sals 17th Annual*  
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Food, Fun, & Entertainment  
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LIVE MUSIC  
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Billy Payne,  
Las Echos  
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At the Southern Appalachian Labor School Community Center  
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