



SALS JOURNAL

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19th Solidarity Festival a Fun Day for All

On Sunday, June 13th, SALS hosted the 19th annual Solidarity Festival and Celebration. The festivities began at 1 PM at our community center at Beards Fork.

The festival is the annual day of recognition for SALS' employees, national service participants and community volunteers with a day of family fun and entertainment. This year a tribute to coal miners was included as well as observance of Juneteenth.

Juneteenth is a growing national celebration of freedom. History tells us Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863. However, more than 250,000 black were still being used as slaves in Texas. On June 19, 1865, 2 1/2 years later, Union soldiers traveled to Galveston, Texas, and proclaimed the end of the Civil War. Soldiers then publicly read the order, finally freeing the remaining slaves. It is believed that these slaves did not know that legally they had been freed almost three years prior. Many African Americans observe Juneteenth as a rightful Independence Day.

The Solidarity Festival's theme this year was a quote by E.B. Browning, "Light tomorrow with today." During the day's activities, local musicians and entertainers performed and a pie baking context was held. Numerous door prizes, donated from local businesses, were awarded during the day. Items include a solar birdbath/fountain, Kathy Van Zeeland designer handbag, candles and much more were given out..

Entertainment included performances by The Boatmen, featuring Randy Gilkey, the Brown Singers, Steven Walker, Sandra Lockard and Pam Hunley, Billy Payne, Tony Manley. Norman Jordan presented a short history of Juneteenth and read original poetry.

A big thanks was awarded to all those who participated in the celebration!

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Festival-goers line up for food at our booth

SALS Booth at Bridge Day Festival

by Dorothy Rudy, VISTA Volunteer

On a beautiful Saturday, the 16th of October, SALS packed up the food trailer about 4:00 a.m. and headed for the 32nd annual Bridge Day Festival. All of the SALS units and projects were involved in providing good fast food for a crowd estimated at over 100,000 people by the National Park Service and the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce.

Some of our people had worked on Friday until the wee hours preparing and loading the trailer. Others of us, this writer included, joined the work at the Bridge. Our YouthBuild students were by far the most enthusiastic vendors on the bridge. They sang YouthBuild songs, at the top of their lungs, attracting much attention, and the ire of some of the quieter, nearer vendors! Some of the youth had apparently worked in fast food and were good at cooking hotdogs, hamburgers, while other SALS and VISTA personnel were assigned tasks of preparing and serving the barbecued chicken sandwiches and chili for the dogs.

This year, instead of selling goods for the benefit of the SALS After School Program and YouthBuild, we worked hard to provide funeral benefits to one of our earliest

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The Big Double Dip? Two Tax Breaks for the Wealthiest West Virginians.

by Gary Zuckett, as printed in the Charelston Gazette September 2010

Economists and newspapers are reporting that our recession may be heading for a devastating double dip. With this in mind, it might interest readers to know that while many working families are in the worst economic struggle of their lives, the wealthy are asking for a double dip, and it's not of chocolate ice cream.

Despite what you might have heard in the media, the tax debate in Washington is not about a tax increase affecting working and middle income families like yourselves— it is about whether the wealthiest Americans will continue to receive not one, but two huge tax cuts.

Let's take a minute and look at how this would work. Most observers agree that sometime between now and the end of the year, Congress will vote to make the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for working, middle-income Americans permanent. If Congress does this, it's also a tax cut for the wealthiest one percent of Americans. That's because the middle-income tax cut applies to the first \$200,000 in income for all individuals and the first \$250,000 for all married taxpayers filing jointly.

In West Virginia, for example, the wealthiest one percent – an individual making more than \$626,810 – will save an average of \$14,888 in 2010 if the middle-class tax cuts are made permanent, as President Obama has proposed. But if the upper-income tax cuts are extended as well – something most all Republicans and a few Democrats favor – the upper one percent of West Virginians will receive an average total tax break of \$32,957 – an additional \$18,069 more than Obama's approach.

In West Virginia, we are really only talking about the top 8/10ths of one percent of our population who are over the \$250,000 income level. Letting these upper-end tax cuts expire for this elite population would bring their tax rates back to what they were when Bill Clinton was president - a time of growth, prosperity and budget surpluses for our nation.

Interestingly enough, even many rank-and-file Republicans are wary of the Republican's plan to make permanent the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy. A recent CNN poll found that exactly 50% of Republicans surveyed oppose giving those who make more than \$250,000 this huge break (among independents, it was 65%; among Democrats, 87%. Overall, 69% want the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share.)

However, almost everyone favors continuing the middle class tax cuts – 82% overall, 80% of Democrats, 78% of independents, 90% of Republicans. And remember: the wealthy would still get the same cuts on their first \$250,000 of income under Obama's proposal – an average

of \$14,888 each for the wealthiest West Virginians.

West Virginia Citizen Action Group supports making the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share. We are a member of Americans for Responsible Taxes (ART), a coalition of more than 80 national groups. ART represents concerned communities and working families united to repeal the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest, reinstate the estate tax to at least 2009 levels, close tax loopholes, and protect working families by rewarding their work with tax relief.

Those who oppose responsible taxes also say they are concerned about the deficit. But this Robin Hood-in-reverse approach of making these tax cuts for the rich permanent would add a trillion dollars to the deficit. At this time when we have an historic recession at home and two wars in the Middle East, our nation can't afford to continue this largesse for the wealthy.

Under the radical proposal to allow double-dipping for the wealthiest taxpayers, West Virginia's middle-class taxpayers would be gouged in two ways. First, the rich would get a much larger share of these permanent tax cuts. And second, because giving two tax breaks to the wealthy would eliminate almost one trillion dollars out of the federal budget, cuts would have to come from somewhere – and those cuts will be job killers, though eliminating and reducing important programs that we all depend on. Likely targets? - Teachers, first-responders, roads & bridges, environmental protection, regulating a safe workplace, you name it. West Virginia taxpayers would have to choose: accept cuts in popular programs, or make up the difference – meaning higher taxes on the local or state level.

The debate over taxes will return to Washington when Congress reconvenes. Don't be fooled by the terms of the debate. Permanent tax breaks for working and middle income families are responsible and necessary. However, the extra tax breaks for the wealthiest is like giving these folks two dips of ice cream while everybody else gets one. Senator

Rockefeller opposed these high-end tax cuts when they were originally debated. We hope both he and our new Senator will support responsible taxes for West Virginia's middle class and require those who have economically benefited the most from our state and nation pay their fair share.

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LABORDONATED

Director's Report

By John David

This has been an amazing period but we foresee tough times on the horizon. As a result, we have created a Sustainability Fund which will match tax deductible donations. If donations are at least \$500 and taxes are owed in West Virginia, we will also issue a tax credit certificate for half of the amount which can be used in lieu of cash for state taxes. All generated monies will be placed in the SALS Permanent Endowment that will be tapped only for interest earnings.

We are continuing to move closer on obtaining the Regina Apartment complex on Scrabble Creek in Gauley Bridge. Community Design Studio has been hired to plan the rehabilitation, which will be financed by a CHDO HOME/RENT grant from the WV Housing Development Fund (WVHDF).

WVHDF has also weighed in on another CHDO grant in regard to our purchase of the former Oak Hill Elementary/High School. The school, which has 27 classrooms, 650 seat auditorium, and gym, sites on a four acre site in downtown Oak Hill.

SALS has been renewed in several categories including certification as a HUD Approved Housing Counseling Agency, CHDO certification, and a charitable agency designated by the WV Secretary of State. These designations are important in maintaining our ability to function on many fronts.

This past period has been a time when over 2000 volunteers have come to work with SALS Housing, our Community Garden program, and afterschool/summer school programs. The result has been many home rehabilitations/completions, a productive garden that provided entrepreneurial opportunities for our youth, and a successful "Stay in School/Keep Hope Alive" program. The volunteers donated thousands of food items, made cash contributions, and supported local businesses by rafting and purchasing materials. In addition, we were gratified by considerable support from Board Members, area people, and faith-based/civic organizations that provided us with designated funds for our work. Several new partners also emerged, including Five Promises for summer school support provided through Governor/Senator Joe Manchin, Fannie Mae for SALS Housing through Ralph Perrey, Global volunteers for the garden initiative, and the WV Department of Education for a summer food expansion. Another key partner is Step by Step, which sponsors several of our VISTAs and collaborates on initiatives.

YouthBuild USA is a non-government entity that advocates for YouthBuild and distributes pass-through grants to affiliated sites. In this manner, SALS has benefited this year from grants from the Wal Mart Foundation, Department of Energy, Corporation for Community and National Service, and several others. We have also reap-



a volunteer working in our High-Tunnel greenhouse

plied directly to the Department of Labor for renewal of our YouthBuild program and wish to thank the many who wrote support letters.

The staff has been hard at work keeping SALS afloat. Debbie, Lisa, and Joyce are working on lender/counseling certifications, Kathryn and Artie are working on youth transformation issues, Vickie Mullins and Red are maintaining our after-school programs, and Vickie Smith and the housing site supervisors have plunged into green training and home building certifications. VISTAs Alisha, Barbara, Angela, Dorothy, and Gary have all been involved also. We are especially pleased that Ruth, who retired from WVU Tech, is now with SALS full-time.

Two special items must be noted. First, we need to thank C.D. and Louise Hunt for donating a piano to the community center. Youth in the after-school program have already begun piano lessons.

The second item pertains to Janet Greene. Janet was one of our first SALS employees and was a major figure with our worker education program. Janet, who has since earned her Ph.D. in History, was the recent recipient of the John Commerford Labor Education Award from the New York Labor History Association. Congratulations!

Our Work At Hilltop

Jeremy Bess & Dave Shaver

We started our work in Hilltop with a house that was almost completed. We had a little bit of plumbing to do which included connecting the water to the meter and hooking up the sewage line. We had some electrical work to do which included wiring up all the lights and ceiling fans and also the smoke detectors. Some drywall work had to be done and we had to put in access panels for both showers. We installed all new cabinets and appliances which included a microwave/stove exhaust hood, a new stove, a new dishwasher, the washer and dryer and the fridge. We did a little bit of touch up painting that was needed. There was a little bit of landscaping that needed to be done by planting grass and leveling the driveway. Insulation had to be installed under the whole house. We had a group of Global Volunteers that came in to help us and we enjoyed working with every single one of them. The crew that worked on House #4 was supervised by Dave Shaver. His crew includes Jeremy Bess, Kenneth Price, Josh Rhodes, CW Johnston, and Andrew Weber plus the next three who helped with the house until school started back: Josh Cochran, Chris Trout and Mark Queen. I will end this by saying Thank You to all of the YouthBuild staff that makes all of our work possible.

Going GREEN

by Barbara Painter, Green Coordinator VISTA

Since I began with VISTA in April, I have grown to love SALS more than when I was just coordinating housing programs with them! The programs that SALS does are fantastic and I learn more about them every day. It is quite an understatement to say that we care about the community and the youth of our state!!!

My title at SALS is Green Coordinator. We have already had a class for part of the YouthBuild group on the Green Advantage Certification. Not all of us have taken the test as of yet, but of those who have tested, Ashton Hudson passed the test and is now certified for three years! We also have set up another Green Advantage class for the new youth coming into the program and a refresher for those who haven't taken the test as of yet. We also have had another Weatherization Class with Bridgemont for the newcomers and an "Introduction to Sustainability" class with us. The youth are great and eager to learn and that is refreshing. I call them my kids because they are the same age as my daughter and some of the youth even call Vickie and me, "Mom". I think that just brings us closer to them!

During the week of October 3, Vickie Smith and I

were presenters at the YouthBuild Conference in Washington, D.C. That was a great tribute for the Southern Appalachian Labor School to have two of their own asked to be presenters at the US Department of Labor! We gave the presentation on the Minneapolis Blower Door and got to meet Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, who as very interested in the Blower Door. We had the opportunity to meet and work with people from all over the United States who work with YouthBuild and each and every one of them love the program and the youth.

Construction Report

by Vickie Smith, Construction Manager

As always, the construction portion of the Labor School has been extremely busy. Rehabs are still underway from the summer's unfinished volunteer jobs. New homes are moving forward; one of the new homes still needs to have siding installed. Our next step is for me to be trained in our new insulation techniques. These new and improved methods allow us to improve home quality for our HERS rating and possibly reduce time with the insulation process. Of course these new techniques will be passed on the supervisors and youth. We are still in need of electrical updates in the Hilltop area such as new poles set in place so we can heat our homes to eliminate cold weather damage to plumbing, drywall etc. With any luck this will be done before really cold weather arrives.

We have many homeowners waiting for us to arrive to do the much needed repairs on their homes. The first order of things are of course to complete all that have been started so far so we do not have to leave the new jobs. With our limited funds, homeowners do not always understand we cannot give them everything that they want. Most do not know the cost of materials and expect more than is



SALS Construction Manager Vivkie Smith demonstrates Blower Door to Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis in DC

possible for us to do..

We have been having training classes in weatherization and green techniques for the youth as fast as we can find providers. Our youth receive certificates for completing the class. The classes reinforce our hands-on-site construction technology. We have had several youth graduate from the program and are looking for 20-30 new youth that are serious about learning a trade and completing their GEDs. If youth are accepted in our program it is a true honor for youth to be allowed to join the YouthBuild national program. It is a very difficult trade to learn but if youth are serious enough, it can be accomplished with determination on the young person's part. YouthBuild is designed to help young adults make drastic changes in their lives and create a new future.

We are still maintaining various rental projects and mowing grass at several locations. I do think this is now over for this year. It is time to repair all equipment in preparation of next season. We have cleaned the construction area, graded the roads where needed, and checked vehicle antifreeze in time for old man winter. This had indeed been a busy and productive year for our organization. I would like to thank staff and youth for the hard work at Bridge Day. I had a blast throwing food around. Everyone in the trailer was exhausted at the end of the day but we could all look back and smile at all the team work. Dad was the only one to come out of it with an injury (OUCH) but he is recovering nicely!!!

Site Report

by Terry Black, Supervisor

This has been a successful three months for our crew at SALS. We have completed the SALS Green Education and Rental Office, which we use for team members to come in on every Wednesday to earn extra money while enjoying making crafts for SALS. SALS uses any extra money for tools and to help our community. We also have completed some major tasks at the Hilltop job site. This site has been also worked on with some volunteers who have helped us a lot. With that said, I am looking forward to the upcoming months.

Crew Report

by Jim Adkins, Site Supervisor

Over the past couple of months, my crew and I have completed several sites. The Graves site was a complete rehab with a new kitchen, living room, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. We installed new plumbing and did a wiring upgrade, as well as a partial roof. We then went on the help with the completion of the Green Lab. After that, Community and Technical completed a site in Harlem Heights for



Ron Yellets & volunteer at home repair site

the Merritt family. It was a complete rehab, new kitchen, bath, 3 bedrooms, a roof and siding. Brian Dabler, John Justice, William Austin and I completed training through Bridgemont College for weatherization. We are currently working at the Reynolds site underpinning the home before winter.

Business Training Offered by SALS

Dorothy Rudy was awarded a \$1600 scholarship to attend four days of entrepreneurship training offered by the Rural Entrepreneurship Action Learning Enterprises, a/k/a REAL that was sponsored by HI-Y of WV & Ohio and the WV State Department of Education. She received 35 hours of training in assisting people who might be interested in starting their own business to evaluate the possibilities and also to assist them in securing the loans and other documents needed to fulfill their dream successfully.

The class was both fun and eye opening. She had a business many years ago and this class taught her much she wished she had known then.

By completing the HI-Y REAL Institute, she has now become a Certified REAL Instructor and is qualified to work with both Secondary students and Post-Secondary clients.

Ms. Rudy, a SALS VISTA, began VISTA training November 16, 2010 in Atlanta. Part of her assignment will be to conduct community meetings for possible entrepreneurs and to work with them individually to achieve their dream – if it is reasonable, feasible and sustainable.

SALS plans on beginning these workshops in early January, after there has been adequate time to do the prep and publicity required to be effective.

New Skills Learned at the Craft Factory

Lorien MacAuley, AmeriCorps/Vista

During the months of October, November and December the Craft Factory has fired up its engines once again to churn out crafts. The Craft Factory is an initiative of SALS in which YouthBuild members gather at the newly completed Green Lab one night a week to assemble crafts, using materials recycled from YouthBuild job sites. YouthBuild members receive training on new equipment, learn a new marketable skill, and receive training in principles of entrepreneurship. The goal is for the YouthBuild members to learn a trade that can become a side income, or even their primary income, after their term is over.

So far, crafts produced at craft night have been various, but fairly simple. YouthBuild members must work with whatever is available as a recycled material, so creativity is necessary to determine a craft that is both desirable to would-be customers and easy to assemble, yet utilizing leftover lumber from the job sites. West Virginia wall hangings, picture frames, wine racks, and bird houses have been produced.

After the YouthBuild members master these simpler crafts, the factory can move on to produce more complex crafts, such as furniture. Again, the goal is for the members to learn a lucrative trade. In the meantime, SALS assumes the risk for sale of the craft, by purchasing the craft from the youth at an agreed-upon price. The crafts are marketed to the general public, and surplus funds from sales will go back into the materials necessary to produce more crafts.

The Craft Factory is currently being coordinated by Step by Step VISTA Lorien MacAuley, with plenty of input and assistance from Vickie Smith and AmeriCorps VISTA, Barbara Painter. Terry Black supervises the craft nights, in order to ensure all tools are being handled properly and safely. Terry also offers helpful advice and assistance on keeping up the quality standards of the crafts.

Anyone who knows Terry, who has worked at SALS for thirteen years, can also assume plenty of jokes and jest will be mixed in with his advice, which keeps things lively on craft factory nights. AmeriCorps member John Flack and AmeriCorps VISTA Angela Klosski have also contributed largely to the "esprit de corps" on craft nights with general assistance, with the important element of keeping the YouthBuild members fed, utilizing the leftover frozen and dry goods from Bridge Day (hot dogs, hamburgers, etc.). The Smith clan has also been heavily involved as volunteers; Vickie Smith's granddaughter Shelby and grandson Kevin have been helping YouthBuild members assemble their crafts, cook, clean up, and are generally helpful all around.

The Craft Factory welcomes any and all volunteers who would like to assist YouthBuild members with their crafts, and assist with cleanup afterwards. Volunteers with

experience in woodworking, power tools, or related crafts are especially needed. If you would like to volunteer at a craft night, please call Lorien MacAuley at 304-779-2280, or email lmacauley@stepbystepwv.org.



Winter Greens Benefit the Community in Many Ways

by Gary DeLuke, AmeriCorps/VISTA

The chilly days crept up pretty quick this year. Luckily, our greenhouse has kept the drop in temperature from being as harsh on our salad greens as it has been on our immune systems. We owe tremendous thanks to the Fayette County Farmers Market Association for choosing the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork as the site for their demonstration high-tunnel greenhouse. For just a few hundred dollars one can build a structure with PVC and 6-mil plastic that can keep healthy vegetables growing throughout the cold seasons. Come see for yourself any day of the week at the SALS Community Center.

Of all the beneficiaries, the afterschool program at SALS has benefitted the most from this season extending accoutrement. We have been able to continue bringing kids out to see and care for all the plants in the greenhouse; plus, we are providing these youth with fresh salad greens and vegetables well past the typical growing season. Although the kids may not understand the value of fresh, homegrown food right now, this experience will likely stick with them as they grow out of the SALS youth programs.

We have been planning for the future of food at SALS, and, in the process, have revamped some old partnerships and started some new ones. Along with the Farmers Market Association, the Southern Conservation District, the

WVU Extension Service, the WVSU Extension Service, and Northeastern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), have all taken an interest in the SALS 'Growing Together' youth garden program, as well as our connection to local food on the whole. We also hope to work closely with the newly founded West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition, an initiative of the WV Community Development Hub, which will be working to improve overall access to healthy, locally produced foods throughout the state. By this time next year, we plan to have the capacity to provide community members in this area with the resources and know-how to start saving on grocery bills by growing their own food at home.

Anyone interested in learning more about local food at SALS, or who feels the urge to participate in any SALS agriculture projects, contact Gary DeLuke or Lorien MacAuley at (304) 779-2280 or GaryLDeLuke@gmail.com or lorienbird@gmail.com.



Young Salesmen from SALS at Farmers Market

Changing Seasons

by Vickie Mullins, VISTA Supervisor

The beautiful warm weather and blooming flowers are no longer here. When we look out the window, all we see are the trees which have turned from green to orange, red, and brown. The frost and freezes are on our pumpkins. A new season, Fall, is quickly transforming into winter.

The SALS' summer program went very well. We enrolled about 35 students in the Energy Express program for grades K-8. The purpose of this program is to help prevent the loss of skills over the summer months, so the children were engaged in reading lots of books, and had volunteers come in and read to them as well. Art work and painting were high priorities. During Energy Express, the children received two hot meals daily, breakfast and lunch, which they really enjoyed. Energy Express is a 6-week reading and nutritional program which allows children during SALS *Journal*

the summer to increase their reading skills and levels by at least one reading level. Fayette County teachers tell us that this program really works! We also had a certified teacher come to SALS to test the children's reading levels both before the program began and at the end, to ensure they children really did achieve the mastery set for them. The test given was the Wood-Cock Johnson test which determines the reading level of each child; the results are 95% accurate.

Energy Express not only promoted reading, but it allowed children to have fun reading different books. They read aloud, with a mentor and lots of volunteers. Energy Express was sponsored by the WVU Extension Service. The Collaborative organization, along with other agencies, met once a month before the program began to establish the program. We all gave input about our site and overall, the programs went well. At the end of the program, County Contacts received child demographics, average daily attendance, the number of volunteers, and the hours they served for each site. They also receive statewide data for reading achievement.

SALS is still in the process of building homes for low-income families, having recently dedicated a small subdivision in Hilltop. Youth, ages 17-24, who have dropped out of high school can, through YouthBuild, receive help in earning their GED while learning a career in the construction industry with both classroom and on-the-job training at the site. These youth attend school at the Vo-Tech in Oak Hill two weeks out of the month and work on a job site for the other two weeks, for which they are paid under contract.

Children from both the Valley and Plateau regions of our county attend SALS' After School Program. Upon arrival, they receive a snack and unwind. Certified teachers are on hand to assist them with their homework and then the children are introduced to many other activities. The children not only get to interact with their peers, but they also interact with the adults and volunteers from all over the country, many of whom are college age. They engage in art activities, dancing, playing board games, and are introduced to science and the discovery of the world around them. They also take field trips during the year. Weather permitting, the children spend time outside playing on SALS' fully equipped playground or shooting baskets and playing kickball on our court with an AmeriCorps volunteer who is part of our staff and others who arrive throughout the year. The children enjoy coming as they all like "Red" (Ms. Charlene Newkirk), the After School Coordinator.

This has been a very successful and fun year for our students and the SALS staff alike.

To SALS and Back Again

John Flack, AmeriCorps/ Vista

As I started my AmeriCorps term with the Southern Appalachian Labor School, I really was not sure what to

expect throughout my term of service. I quickly began to understand that expectations are meaningless as unexpected things happen all the time. I learned many practical skills on the job. These will be very valuable in not only my work life, but also my personal life. Even though I do value these skills, I believe that I learned much more on a personal level in my interactions with others.

I was introduced to a wide variety of people and given a personal perspective of the people I was trying to help. Through these interactions, I was able to understand poverty more than I was able to before. In a rural area, poverty does have differences from poverty in urban areas. However, there are many similarities as well, more than one might think. People are the same wherever you go. I was very happy to be exposed to so many interesting people that have so many varying backgrounds and stories to share about their life. They have helped me to understand myself in ways that I had not expected.

I've had the privilege of working with a variety of the programs that SALS has to offer. Each program has brought me a different perspective about SALS and my life itself. All of them have had their good times as well as bad times. In all of these times, I have learned to endure not only myself but as a group, or family if you will. And as with all families, we have many branches. I have just had the luxury of being able to swing from limb to limb at times.

Working with the after school program has been great. Having a fresh perspective into the young people of the area has helped in many ways. It is always fun being able to interact with kids and try to encourage their hopes. Working with them in the garden has not only been educational to them, but also to me. I have gained much knowledge about gardening since working with everyone on the gardening program. The kids bring enthusiasm and energy to their work both in the garden and at the farmers market. In fact, they sometimes bring a little bit more energy than we can handle. Helping with the volunteer program has also been a very uplifting cog of the SALS work. These are but a few of the activities I have been involved with in SALS, and look forward to more in the future.

Through my term, I have learned to appreciate the smaller things in life that were often overlooked in my life prior to my stint with AmeriCorps. In both the good and bad times, I have absorbed a lot of wisdom and experience through the year. I feel that I have gained something that I would not have ever had otherwise. I felt like I accomplished much through my first year of service with SALS. I can only hope that my second year is as influential to both me and others as my first.

National Rural Youth Assembly

By Alisha Young, AmeriCorps VISTA

I recently returned from my first trip to Santa Fe New Mexico and what an awesome trip it was. I was selected to
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go to New Mexico after a grueling application process. During my visit among 53 other young leaders from rural communities we channeled our thinking about what issues there were among rural communities and what we could do to change them. Surprisingly the issues we face such as high drop-out rates, transportation, unemployment and poverty were the same issues that every young person faced in their own home towns. During my four day stay we went to workshops and got to tour the Institute of American Indian Arts which was phenomenal and also was where the conference was held. I am proud to represent Southern West Virginia as a young leader and am happy that I was given the chance to do so.

Never a Dull Moment at SALS

Debra Spurlock, Housing Specialist

Well, warm weather has come and gone and so has another year of Group WorkCamps. Many homes in Fayette County are much brighter and peoples' problems much lighter thanks to the WorkCamps crews. These young people brighten up the day for lots of folks in our area. Not only do they repair the homes, they give them a reason to get up in the morning. The residents look forward to spending time with the crews. They form a bond with them that lasts long after they are gone. Many of the crew members keep in contact with their resident via cards and letters or email. This gives the homeowners something to look forward to. Some people in our area wonder why some folks get written up year after year. Well, I tell you why. A lot of the residents are elderly and live alone. They have very little family or friends who come to visit. It's not so much that they need the home repairs each year but that they need the companionship. The week that the crew spends with them stays with them long after they are gone. They get to share their life experiences with the young people. This brightens their days. I really believe this program helps a lot of people in a lot of different ways.

One of our other programs which I was in charge of has come to an end. Due to the hard economic times the SHARE program had to shut down. It was costing more to run the program than it was bringing in. Even though folks could save money by ordering food through the program they were finding it hard to come up with the money to order. Hopefully things will pick up and the program or one like it will return in the future.

While working with the FEMA program, the program where we help area residents with food and utilities, I became aware of just how bad the need for help had become. The number of people needing help doubled since last year. Utilities were much higher than before. We ran out of funds a lot earlier than previous years. We were able to help eight families with their utility bills and quite a number of people with food.

We have had a number of housing counseling classes



“Red” Newkirk, Vicki Mullins and Debbie Spurlock picking up litter on “Make a Difference Day”

over the past few months. Enrollment has been down due to the housing crisis. But we have been successful in helping a single lady purchase a new home. She is very excited about her new house. It is a great feeling to be a part of that process.

We have also helped seven families with rehabs over the past few months. Thanks to all the volunteers, from Christian Endeavor and Group WorkCamps to Global volunteers and the college groups, these projects were able to be completed. These families will be warmer and dryer this winter. I would like to thank everybody who played a part in this.

I also participated in three of our organizations projects recently. The first was Bridge Day. I wasn't able to work in the hot dog wagon that day due to my out of state relatives visit, but I did help clean up the trailer after the event. It was a very exhausting and dirty job, but as they say somebody had to do it. Second was Make a Difference Day. I was a part of the clean up crew again. We walked the two miles from the mouth of Beards Fork to the Community Center picking up trash. We collected about six bags of garbage. While on this adventure, since I was looking very closely and moving leaves to uncover trash, I found a wallet type bag. In it was a cellphone, car keys, a bank card and lipstick. After returning to the center I turned the phone on and it still worked. I called the number of the phone and it said it had been disconnected. When I turned the phone on it said “Hello Buck”, so I went through the contacts and found a Buck. I called that number and asked for Jennifer, the name on the bank card, and she was the one who answered the phone. She was one of the bus drivers who drove the kids in Beards Fork. She had lost her wallet out of the bus window after placing it in the dash. It had been three weeks since she lost it and the phone still worked. She was very excited that the wallet had been found. I left it at the center for her to pick up on her next trip there. So I guess I really did make a difference that day!

The third event was the Halloween Party. I dressed up along with the other staff members to entertain the kids. We had a cake walk, a mummy wrapping contest, an outhouse game and treats for all. We fixed the kids hot dogs and nachos for supper. Everyone had a GREAT time.

As you can see, a lot of stuff goes on at SALS. There's never a dull moment. Lots of people to help, many calls to answer and lots and lots of paperwork to do .



Lorien & just part of the sweet potato crop

Bridge Day, continued from page one

YouthBuild members and brother to a SALS supervisor, who had died tragically just that previous Sunday. Brian Black was not far from our minds as we worked. Both Kroger's and Wal-Mart contributed food for our benefit sale, and SALS thanks them immensely.

In addition to the food sales, SALS' new Craft Factory offered home-made wood crafts for sale and provided information to the public about the various SALS programs.

We all worked hard, but it was fun and we look forward to Bridge Day next year.



Dorothy Rudy & Sid Yoho direct setup at Bridge Day

My Vista Term so Far

by Angela Klosski

So far this past eight months as a VISTA it has been a struggle for me on getting volunteers around the community. I have been feeling stress on the case of things not going the way that I would hoped that they would have gone. The scouts are still running although we have had some struggles since they have been at SALS, they make the best of their meetings and have fun with what they are doing. This fall we have increased the number of girls since last fall. The boys on the other hand have decreased since last fall. I have arranged for numerous speakers to come and demonstrate, also to speak with the kids such as: Officer McCullen doing finger-printing and DNS swabs; Judy Lively with the Board of Education talking with the kids about work; Hunter's Education will give a hunting class to the kids and the community. Officer Willis will bring his K-9 dog and will do demonstrations with the kids on missing people. Hopefully we will have plenty more before my term is up. I'm hoping to have people to volunteer to continue to carry on the Girl and Boy Scouts. To finish my term I'm hoping to have a better success in my work of being a VISTA.

YouthBuild News

Kathryn South

This fall season began with hot, dry weather and a great month of volunteer activities. Bridge Day in Fayetteville began with cold temperatures. The day gradually warmed up to a very comfortable sunny Saturday. It was a good day to enjoy all the vendors and meeting folks you have not seen for a while. All the SALS staff that participated in Bridge Day was really impressed with the YouthBuild members who came out early to help out. Several youth stayed all day and really made a difference with our efforts to let folks know about our program. Thank you Nate, Cody, Jason, C.W., Andrew, Ashton, and all adult volunteers who helped out with the festivities of the day.

Make-A-Difference Day was also a success. YouthBuild members helped out with a community clean-up and others cleaned the garden up for weatherization. One crew also installed countertops for a family in the area. Since the last newsletter went out, we have been trying to recruit additional youth for the program. We have enrolled eight new youth this fall in the program. One youth already got his GED certificate. Two others are ready to take the GED test. We are still recruiting and we have 35 slots open for young people between the ages of 17 and 24 who do not have a high school diploma or a GED. The YouthBuild program is a great opportunity for youth to get back on track with educational goals and to plan for the future. Twelve youth are involved with additional "greenbuilding" training.

The Green Lab is being used for various trainings for

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meetings. The last few board meetings have been held there and the facility looks really nice. The youth and the many volunteers did a really good job with rehabbing the building for training and classroom space.

Our newest venture is the Mentoring Project. We are looking for caring adults to be mentors to our younger YouthBuild members. The age group for the youth is between 16 and 19. This is the age that seems to benefit more from having a guide in his or her life. If anyone is interested in becoming a friend and guide, to a young person who may need support to realize the goals he or she has set for themselves, please contact us at SALS through any of our staff people or by calling the office 304/779-2280.

SALS SLIGHTLY SCARY, VERY FUNNY, MYSTERIOUS DREAM CHASE ADVENTURE



By Jody Lynn Smith and the Energy Express Kids
at the Southern Appalachian Labor School

Paperback, 160 pages

List Price: ~~\$20.00~~

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Order from www.lulu.com

IF EVERYTHING YOU IMAGINED YOU COULD DO SO THAT YOUR DREAM REALLY WOULD COME TRUE, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? The Secret Society of Dreamers, Doers, and Doggone-It, Shoulda-Done-Its challenged five essay contest winners and unexpected vacationers from the Southern Appalachian Labor School to do what they said they want to do, help someone while they were gone and return in time for the holidays! There is big money for the school at stake and a little something for the winners in this hilarious and inspirational great race for good with a special surprise for the reader inside. Join in the adventure and find your own way to your dream when you write an ending for each of the dream chase racers. Your mission? Help the kids avoid the temptation to be a gloomy giver-upper or racing on an all about me journey. 90% of profits to be donated to The Southern Appalachian Labor

Southern Appalachian Labor School Craft Factory Order Sheet

All items are earth friendly, recycled, and hand-crafted by YouthBuild members.

By purchasing these crafts, you are making a bold statement that you believe in the power of West Virginians to go into business for themselves and keep our dollars in West Virginia. This is just one example of how green jobs can turn things around for the economy of Southern West Virginia. All items come affixed with a label describing the program through which they were produced, and can ship within 10-14 business days after order is received. Please call for rush orders.

Clip and mail order form to: SALS, attn: Lorien MacAuley, P.O. Box 127, Kincaid WV, 25119.

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Craft Description

Item Number(s)

Price

Quantity

Total

WV Shaped Small Magnet (small), approx. 3" x 2". Recycled wood.

A perfect statement of WV pride, this magnet can accommodate numerous grocery lists on the fridge and is a perfect stocking stuffer. Choice of blue and gold or earth tones (please indicate)

Item Number 101-01 \$5.00

WV Shaped Key Rack (large), approx. 10" x 7". Recycled wood.

These hand-painted key-racks have the WV emblem. You have your choice of blue and gold or earth tones (please indicate). Each have three hooks for keys and wall-hanging apparatus.

Item Number 102-01 \$12.00

Bird House, approx. 7" x 5" x 10". Recycled wood.

These bird houses sport an attractive cathedral ceiling, come with hanging apparatus, and are perfect for wood warblers, bluebirds, nuthatches and other songbirds.

Item Number 103-01 \$10.00

Picture Frame (8 x 10). Recycled wood.

Made from recycled wood trimming, finished with extra finish from job sites, these frames are both attractive and 100% sustainable. Perfect gift for your earth savvy friend or loved one.

Item Number 105-01 \$15.00

Wine Rack Assembly (from kit donated to SALS), approx. 2' x 1' x 2.5'. Holds 16 bottles of wine.

Please add an additional \$5.65 for shipping and handling. Love wine? These attractive cabinet-style wine racks can hang on the wall or sit on the ground or counter. Finished oak or walnut-looking wood. Though these are not post-consumer recycled, but were donated from unused warehouse stock, and are 100% sustainable.

Item Number 106-01 \$28.00

SHIPPING and HANDLING Please add \$2.95 Please add an additional \$5.65 for wine racks. Thanks!

TOTAL Please make check payable to "Southern Appalachian Labor School." Thanks for your donation!

Questions? Call Lorien MacAuley at 304-779-2280, or email lorienbird@gmail.com.

HAC Grant Supports ENERGY STAR® Certification at SALS

by Janice Clark, Housing Assistance Council

Washington, D.C., October 4, 2010 – With support from The Home Depot Foundation, The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) has awarded new grant funding to twelve rural, affordable housing developers, (including SALS) which will result in energy savings for 82 low-income families. Rural housing groups are constructing units to meet ENERGY STAR® certification standards, which will result in lower energy costs, provide healthier living areas, and protect the environment. The grants will help support the cost of certification on 82 new single-family units in rural communities across the nation.

The 82 families are participants in self-help housing programs funded in part by HAC's Self Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP). SHOP families are often responsible for installing the energy-saving components that qualify them for ENERGY STAR® certification. "Homes built by affordable housing developers have become more energy-efficient because of programs like ENERGY STAR®," said Moises Loza, executive director of HAC. "HAC is proud to support this program and help families save money and protect the environment."

Through this new ENERGY STAR® certification grant program, HAC strengthens its Green Building/Healthy Homes Initiative, which is supported by The Home Depot Foundation. HAC has awarded nearly \$1 million in grants under this program since its creation in 2005. This program will increase the capacity of affordable housing developers to complete the certification process and develop ENERGY STAR® qualified homes.

The ENERGY STAR® program is a joint effort between the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy, which provides building guidelines and identifies home building materials and products to raise the energy efficiency standards in American homes. To earn a certification, a home must meet the guidelines for energy efficiency set by the US EPA and be at least 15 percent more energy efficient than standard homes. ENERGY STAR® certified homes typically include additional energy-saving features that make the homes 20 to 30 percent more efficient than a standard home.

SALS Re-Approved for Housing Counseling

by Debra Spurlock, Housing Specialist

After a lot of hard work SALS has once again been approved as a housing counseling agency. A few months ago we had a review to see if we were meeting all of the HUD requirements. Each file had to have certain documents and information in them. They randomly picked

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fifteen files to review for compliance. The files were determined to be well maintained in accordance with the HUD Handbook and applicable housing counseling grant agreements.

We can help people in different ways with this grant. We offer Pre-Purchase Counseling, Mortgage Delinquency and Default Resolution, Non-Delinquency Post Purchase, Fair Housing Pre-Purchase and Pre-Purchase Homebuyer Education Workshops.

Anyone interested in any of the above offered services please call us or send contact information to SALS.



Hilltop new home, site of the Wal Mart grant ceremony

Wal-Mart Foundation Awards Grants to SALS YouthBuild

In October, Wal-Mart representatives presented two checks totaling over \$80,000 to SALS for its YouthBuild Program. This contribution is part of a multi-million Wal-Mart Foundation grant to YouthBuild USA, a non-profit organization engaging out-of-school youth throughout the country in alternative educational programs. Following brief remarks by officials from Wal Mart and Director John David, SALS staff conducted tours of the SALS Housing project at Hilltop in Oakhill

Through YouthBuild programs, students earn their high school diplomas or GED's, and simultaneously obtain job skills while building affordable housing for homeless and low-income families. The grant to SALS will help approximately 12 students work toward their GED or high school diploma while building units of affordable housing using green building techniques, as well as funding the SALS Green Business Seed Initiative.

Nationwide since 1994, 76,000 YouthBuild students have produced more than 17,000 units of housing in 226 of America's poorest communities. YouthBuild programs are funded through a combination of federal, state, local, private foundation and corporate funds. The primary federal funding comes from the YouthBuild program authorized under the US Department of Labor. Primary corporate funding is from the Wal-Mart Foundation.

Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

SALS Community Center

304-779-2772, or 779-2280

WVU-Tech office: 304-442-3156 or 442-3042

Housing Counseling: 304-442-3328

Construction Manager: 304-6403792, fax 469-9721

John David, Director - 304-442-3156

Joyce Brown, Administrator - 304-442-3328

Ruth Lanham, Admin. Assistant - 304-442-3156

www.sals.info

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Helen M. Powell	Chair
Marcus Wilkes	Vice Chair
Rick Wadsworth	Secretary /Treasurer
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Lisa Manley	Housing Counseling
Dave Shaver	Youth Build Trainer

* Indicates members of the SALS Leadership Team

Jimmy Adkins

Terry Black

Ron Yellets

YouthBuild Trainer

YouthBuild Trainer

YouthBuild Trainer

AmeriCorps/VISTA

Angela Klosski

Alisha Young

Gary DeLuke

Barbara Painter

Lorien MacAuley

Dorothy Ruby

John Flack

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'Accent Education' After School Program

Charlene Newkirk	Site Coordinator
Tony Canada	Project Director
Regina Gilbert	Experience Works
Debbie Ferri & Dorothy Rudy	- Teachers
Wilda Salter	Foster Grandparent

Energy Express

Sarah Clemins, Site Supervisor

New River/Beards Fork Health Clinic Project

Dr. Dan Doyle, M.D.

G.E.D. Instructors/Fayette Co. Schools

LeeAnn Gore & Mary Lynn Flint

WVU Extension Service

Debbie Tate

Cassandra Bandy

Bookkeeping Team

Valarie Cowley, Ruth Lanham

Tom Bass, Brenda Winter, Debbie Spurlock



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: ___\$1,000 ___\$500 ___\$250 Other\$_____

Or print a donation form at www.sals.info

Please send me a thank you gift.. ___\$50 + Donors will receive a SALS License Plate, or similar item

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/St/zip _____
 Telephone _____
 E-mail _____

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.

Links Between the Mountains

Deep ties between West Virginia and Haiti's Ranges

When I graduated from Berea College in Kentucky in 2008, I wanted to go somewhere completely different and do service work. Two of my fellow classmates at Berea were from Port au Prince, Haiti and told me about the foundation through which they had come to Berea.

I enlisted as an English teacher. I was supposed to have twenty advanced students. Instead, I arrived to a classroom with only a blackboard, broken chalk, a pile of old magazines, fifty-five students of all English levels, and hardly any curriculum. That summer was an incredible challenge, most pointedly because I was so alone there with no freedom, not even to leave the house alone. However, the friends I made in my students have lasted and have become something for a much larger purpose.

I returned from Haiti to a farm in Kentucky and worked on over a year. Then, I moved back near Lewisburg, WV working for High Rocks, a non-profit working on educating, empowering, and inspiring young West Virginia women.

Last Fall, suddenly it hit me that I should go back to Haiti. I went back and traveled intensely for a week with my father and former students; we returned on January 10, 2010 just two days before the earthquake hit.

Since January, everything has been an exciting blur: I started a community-to-community partnership between the Greenbrier Valley in WV and Cap Haitien, Haiti. I led a team of professionals, mainly from West Virginia to provide

medical care and a health assessment in the community, teach English, music, and first aid classes, and to organize a women's group. Our trip was a huge success and also the foundation on which we will build future trips and many projects in Haiti.

Our vision is to create a mutually beneficial partnership between the communities in Haiti and West Virginia as we work locally on both ends while trying to solve global problems as one unified team. I have realized that we're facing a lot of the same problems in WV and Haiti: poverty, energy issues, health issues, and education and jobs issues are present and complex.

I connected with SALS recently and it has been another one of those serendipitous meetings where we're walking parallel paths and just hadn't seen the person next to us. I was excited about the partnership that SALS has had with Haiti, particularly the documentary film from the 80's called "Bitter Cane", filmed in Haiti and WV. I had been talking with my group about documenting our parallel stories as we work in these communities and I was interested to see an earlier and larger scale version. I'm so glad I found "Bitter Cane" and I hope more people get to see. The issues faced by workers in both countries are difficult and sometimes corrupt.

I look forward to continuing to grow and improve our partnership between communities in West Virginia and other parts of the world as we strive to work together to solve issues that affect all of us! For more information, please contact Meike Schleiff at mjschleiff@gmail.com or on my cell phone at 304-667-0566.

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