



SALS JOURNAL

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SALS' Global Scope

Artie Mullins, Global Volunteer Team Leader

Global Volunteers have been sending us volunteers since 1999. The Millennium Project sponsored by a group of volunteers in the winter of 2000 seems to have been a turning point for our relationship. This summer we hosted our 80th Global Volunteers team. Over 1000 volunteers from Global Volunteers alone have served in our community. They travelled from as far away as Nepal and The Republic of China. **There are only two US sites, SALS and the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana.** The Global Volunteer website has this to say about the two sites: "Service opportunities await you within the borders of the United States! Either in the "hollers" of West Virginia, or in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains in Montana, you can **help resourceful communities create a better life** for their children. Work one-on-one with local people on education, labor, and cultural projects for a week of service, learning and fun. You and your teammates become a part of another community, living with people of a different culture - enjoying their traditions, history and celebrations. Never doubt the impact you and your family can have in just one week in our host communities!"

Global Volunteers has been an important component in our effort to improve the lives of the local population and the youth of SALS. They are partnered with our youth, many of whom have not completed their high school education. It is SALS' goal to teach our youth a trade as well as skills to maneuver through life. Global Volunteers bring a breath of fresh air into their seemingly routine lives. Volunteers also become role models, mentors and friends. Building and rehabilitating homes is the work that these youth perform on a daily basis. Global Volunteers are an important plus for the host organization, but the true work is their part in the transformation that is possible for our youth. Each volunteer is an important part of this process. As volunteers work side by side with the youth, they gain the satisfaction of not only building a home for a needy family but building lasting and meaningful relationships as well.

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Coda Mountain Academy at SALS

This past August, a wonderful cultural experience came to the community of Beards Fork. SALS became the unexpected host for the CODA Mountain Music Academy's two weeks of musical training for about 45 students. They were taught by wonderful teachers, faculty, and students from Peabody Cleveland Institute of Music, Julliard, and East Tennessee State University. This group had a surprise instructor, the uncle of Brandon Green, a West Virginian who teaches music and bluegrass at East Tennessee State University, Sid Hatfield, a professional bluegrass musician in his own right and a 5th generation descendent of the Hatfield's, was the surprise guest instructor and played with the youth's bluegrass band in concert.

At the last possible moment, CODA lost its venue elsewhere in the county. At the suggestion of the Fayette County Commission, SALS' Director John David, stepped in and offered the services of the SALS Community Center and dorms in Beards Fork. Rushing to wind up Energy Express and prepare the former Beards Fork Elementary School for the influx of students, teachers, and instruments of all sizes, the SALS staff led by Artie Mullins in conjunction with the CODA staff, was hard pressed to get everything reorganized, rearranged and stored before the grand entrance of the Baby Grand, and three Spinnet pianos. Then came the students, with their cellos, double basses, violins, violas, acoustic

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Beards Fork's own Zae Davis performing her composition, "In His Presence" written at CODA Academy

Let 'em eat cat food

by Larry Matheney

as printed in the Charleston Gazette, November 7, 2012

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Halloween has passed, the presidential election has passed and both events caused many West Virginia residents to experience some fear or at least some anxiety conjured up by imaginary goblins or a high priced political campaign spin strategist.

Today could be the beginning of the scariest time for middle class America. I believe that immediately following Election Day some members of the lame duck Congress began cutting a deal to ensure passage of a deficit reducing "grand bargain" which will bring additional economic burden to those who already struggle to afford a Christmas goose.

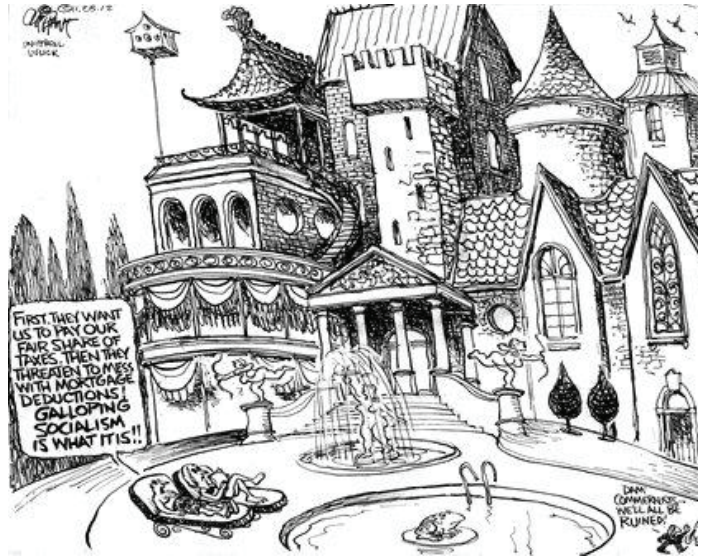
Sen. Joe Manchin introduced the leaders of the Simpson-Bowles Deficit Reduction Commission (former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles from the Clinton administration) to West Virginia on Sept. 10 at the Culture Center. Everyone over the age of 62 was identified as a greedy geezer, and AARP was referred to as fear mongers by Sen. Simpson.

I wasn't particularly offended because I commonly refer to both of them as the leaders of the Cat Food Commission, the commission that will reduce the deficit on the backs of the old and the poor, through cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, forcing them to eat cat food once the commission gets done slashing away at their modest earned benefits.

Now that the election is over, a budget showdown is coming, the lame duck Congress and the president will be making a critical choice; do they continue enriching our nation's wealth accumulators (the richest 2 percent) or do they help middle class America by creating more economic security, not less.

We must let our congressional representatives know that working and middle-class West Virginians did not break our economy and that it's far past time to require those who have benefited most from policies of deregulation and tax avoidance to pay their fair share and become economic patriots.

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Working and middle-class West Virginians are not greedy geezers, as Sen. Simpson suggested. We are hard-working people with good common sense who absolutely understand what will happen if this lame duck Congress passes the "grand bargain" (recommended by the Simpson-Bowles Commission) continuing lower taxes for the richest 2 percent while cutting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits to reduce the deficit. It will not be a Grand Bargain; it will be another Great Burden on those who can least afford it.

I ask all working West Virginians to join with the West Virginia AFL-CIO in a clear loud voice (that does not sound like the feeble voice of a greedy geezer) telling Sen. Manchin he must reject all budget deficit reducing proposals that avoid taxing the richest 2 percent of Americans while promoting reductions in funding for our essential social safety net programs, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, that without doubt protect all working and middle-class Americans.

Matheney is secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia AFL-CIO, a group of more than 575 unions.

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We welcome articles and submissions by our readers.

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Director's Report

by John David

We live in most interesting times. For community-based organizations like SALS that are grant driven, the reality check is that time has come to access what we do and how we do it. Accordingly, the Benedum Foundation, in cooperation with Community Works, has provided us the services of Bruce Decker of Collective Impact to study SALS. The theme is "Looking Back, Moving Ahead: Achieving Sustainability and Impact in Community Development for SALS" and all of you are invited to provide input.

Since Spring, several VISTAs have completed their terms. They are Gary DeLuke, John Flack, and Kaitlyn Carreau. All of them contributed to various new SALS programs, such as gardening, and made existing programs function better, such as the after-school program. We appreciate their service and thank them for their contributions to SALS.

On the addition side, SALS welcomes Andrew Munn who is transferring from OVEC to coordinate the Environmental Justice program; Erica Horton, a new VISTA through Step-By-Step who is assisting with the development of the Historic Oak Hill School; Lisa Manley, a returning VISTA through YouthBuild USA; and Dorothy Rudy, who has been extended by Step-By-Step to work on a disaster relief manual.

The afterschool program has jumped in enrollment, increasing to an average of more than 30 per day as compared to half that number only a few years ago. Buses come from Oak Hill and Montgomery/ Smithers schools, loaded with kids ready for a rigorous schedule of homework help, project and recreational activities, and supper. People have come by to talk to us about need, including Stephen Smith, the new Director of the WV Healthy Kids and Family Coalition.

SALS Staff spent a chunk of time this summer on disaster relief and have joined up with FEMA and area emergency folks in recovery effort, during the two federally proclaimed emergency disasters that hit our area. Various friends and organizations assisted us in providing food and relief services to many people. Some supplies were delivered directly to families in the hollers and some were distributed at temporary facilities set up at the Loup Creek Volunteer Fire Department in Page, the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork, and the SALS Historic Oak Hill School. The SALS Dormitory in Beards Fork operated as a shelter.

Representing SALS, I attended the Housing Assistance Council's bi-annual rural housing conference in DC and accepted the Skip Jason Award. This national award



At HAC Awards - L to R: John Connor- Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity; Marlena Mullins - WV Affordable Housing Trust Fund; John David - SALS; Carol Cain - Woodlands Development Group

is presented in honor of Skip, who began his career in housing with Tech Housing/ Buffalo Creek Housing which in the 1970's was a program at WVU-Tech in Montgomery. Skip then went on to be on the HAC staff.

Board Chair Helen M. Powell has returned home after spending considerable time at a rehabilitation facility after a knee replacement. Vice Chair Marcus Wilkes successfully ran for and was elected Mayor of Northfork in McDowell County.

SALS has continued to raise the bar in energy efficiency with rehabs and new home construction. Barbara Painter, our Green Coordinator VISTA, has worked with our staff and young adults to conduct pre and post energy efficiency audits, which then guide what and how we do construction. In addition, as a result of the Department of Energy grant through YouthBuild, we have built Fayette County's first homes with Energy Star certifications. Currently, five new homes are under construction and all will be built to comply with Energy Star 3 criteria. Vickie Smith and site supervisors Terry Black and Jim Adkins have attended a week long training program to gain certifications as HERS raters, which is part of the process to certify Energy Star compliance.

Both of the SALS Community Centers have been active in other ways than disaster relief and renovations. The Community Center in Beards Fork hosted a highly successful Energy Express summer, the Food Fest Camp, and the CODA Music Camp, along with numerous groups of Global Volunteers and other contingents. The Historic Oak Hill School hosted various community functions, including a Breakfast with Santa, Craft Show, and a Group Workcamps contingent of 400 volunteers. It also was the

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The Historic Oak Hill School

Erica Horton, VISTA

As the Community Center Development VISTA I see progress being made as the transformation from a former high/elementary school into Community Center happens. Since becoming a VISTA for SALS/ Historic Oak Hill School, my 8 year old assistant and I have been busy promoting the facility. We share the story of how the old Oak Hill High/Elementary School is transitioning into the Historic Oak Hill School Community Center with practically everyone we contact.

We receive a lot of positive feedback about the facility being used by the community instead of letting it rot and fall into disrepair. As part of SALS Flex-E-Grant through the West Virginia Development Office, we will continually host community meetings in order to gain support and give general information about the facility. I have attended various meetings throughout the community to show support of other organizations and as a time to network with others. I'm also using my connections with other organizations to promote the facility.

Over the last few months I have met some amazing folks who come and volunteer their time at our facility. I am working on gaining additional volunteer support from our area.

Green VISTA Report

by Barbara Painter

Charles Roskovesky from the Pierpont Community and Technical College has completed his second training with SALS staff (Vickie Smith and myself) plus several community contractors. We had 14 at the last training. He will return in a few weeks to do the Energy Star 3 training. I did the basics and the paper work setting up this training and obtaining the necessary paperwork from those that attended.

Dave Shaver, Kenny Price and I have been busy doing pre-energy audits on the homes in School House Hollow and SALS Landing. I have entered the audits and Dave's and Ron's crew have been busy sealing the ductwork. All homes are within the guidelines of the audits.

We will be reporting 7 homes done for the Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program quarterly report this time.

I am working on a grant to hopefully set up a "Green" Library for the Historic Oak Hill School. Work on the required budget and actual grant begins this week.

I am taking a "Green" on line class to assist with the teaching of the YouthBuild. It uses Project Based Teaching and has been interesting so far. To date, I have a GPA of 100%.

We had our quarterly safety meeting at the Historic Oak Hill School on the 25th. I was like a proud Momma – I did the basics. Swadye Thomas did the actual safety pre-

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Barbara Painter, Tom Painter, and Bruce Boyens pose with donated books for SALS from the Kanawha County Public Library

sentation and something strange happened – everyone took part in the discussion. It was GREAT!

I was on vacation during September's Fayette Family Resource Network meeting. However, in October we hosted the meeting at the school and gave FRN members a guided tour.

Rob Moody from the Organic Think Tank came in October as well to do monitoring and training.

I have been attending the Long Term Recovery Meetings and VOAD meetings for John since he has such a busy schedule. If you know of ANYONE who had ANY damage from the storm, June 29 through July, please tell them to register with FEMA. If the registration deadline has expired, they should try regardless in case the registration period is extended. If they live in a county that has not been declared as a FEMA county, please also have them register with FEMA. There is a chance that other counties may be declared disaster area, but not if they don't have the registrations. FEMA for Fayette County is located at the National Guard Armory in Glen Jean while FEMA Corps members stayed in the dorm at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork.

Construction Manager Report

by Vickie Smith

Days are going by super fast as we head into winter. The construction crews have been busy working on rehabs. Two new affordable homes at Hilltop have been provided to low income families. Both were certified as Energy 2.5 compliant, the first in the county. New home bids have been put out for our next two homes in the Oak Hill area. The first two office spaces have been completed on the first floor. SALS has joined the Mountaineer Food

Bank and a new pantry has opened at the Historic Oak Hill School (HOHS).

Three hundred plus volunteers occupied the HOHS for a week in July during our two week state of emergency without power, safe drinking water, internet, fuel, phones, ice, local television station and food. It was also the hottest two weeks of the summer.

Our youth stepped up to the plate and delivered food and water to hundreds in our outlying area. We traveled 50 plus miles in all directions to buy fuel for locals who were fortunate to have small generators. We had several feeding stations in the area but often had no water to give out and would often run out of food before all were fed. Seniors without transportation were left hungry or just too weak to stand in line for long lengths of time or walk the distance to receive food. This was a very trying time for all in the area. Our youth made us proud as they embraced the situation and showed such compassion and concern for the community.

I must admit I was terribly disappointed in the days it took for local and state personnel to react to the situation and feel we need some training for first responders in our area. We were lucky considering the heat and no ice for local folks to have not lost many lives of our precious elderly and those with illnesses. Many suffered far more than they should have. Unfortunately with the power grid in such poor repair and still held together with ropes I am sure we will see more of this as winter sets in.

We are in need of a huge generator at the HOHS to run the facility during such occurrences. We could offer cooling space, feeding, housing, and also use it as a medical overflow to the local hospital if the need would ever arise. We are looking into finding such items and the needed funding for it.

We need more recruits into our YouthBuild program. We have been low in numbers for years. If you know of youth between the ages of 17-24 who would like to earn their GED while learning construction skills and leadership skills please contact us at the Beards Fork (304/779-2772) or Oak Hill (304/465-4246) sites.

We are also taking applications for new homes. We will have two in the city limits of Oak Hill in February of 2013. These homes should be Energy Star 3 and affordable to own. The lots are level and both homes have 4 bedrooms. Give Debbie Spurlock a call if interested at 304/442-3328 or 304/465-9732.

We will also be clearing some of the heavy wooded area behind the school to deter vandals from the park area. We have a new school in our former kindergarten building. It is a Montessori School grades K-5 and applications are being taken for more students.

We are still in need of area rugs, couches, chairs, lamps, bookcases, hutches and tables, and pictures for the HOHS Hallways. Donations welcome. Pick up or drop off. You can call 304/465-4246, 304/640-3792.

SALS Food Fest Cooks Up a Fun Time for All

by Kaitlyn Carreau, VISTA Emeritus

"What's a rutabaga?" asked one youth during the third annual Food Fest summer camp, "is it a fruit or a vegetable?" The students were playing food bingo, and were hard at work identifying which food group the items announced fell under. Twelve youth grades 4 and up from around Fayette County gathered at the Southern Appalachian Labor School in Beards Fork, WV from July 30-August 1 to become completely immersed in food. The youth learned skills for planning healthy diets, such as learning to read nutrition labels, and proper portion sizes, played fun games, and spent a lot of time in the kitchen. The participants gathered early each morning to start the day off right by making and eating breakfast. Then the children participated in activities relating to gardening, nature, and nutrition. The kids got their hands dirty when they searched in the garden for bugs to identify and tie dyed bandanas using vegetable and spice dyes they made themselves. They made their own raspberry freezer jam, and took home jars of string beans they pressured canned with some help from the West Virginia University Extension Service.

The foods consumed over the three days were made all or in part by the campers. They did everything from chopping fruits and vegetables and baking chicken to boiling pasta and flipping pancakes. They even ventured into the garden to pick vegetables to incorporate into their meals. At the end of the camp the youth were more open to trying some of the foods that they were adamantly opposed to at the beginning. Hearing students admit that the yellow squash in their pasta sauce "wasn't bad" and seeing other kids devour the raw broccoli made all the hard work of planning and facilitating Food Fest worthwhile.

With obesity and other diet-related diseases a growing problem in West Virginia and the rest of the country, programs like Food Fest are extremely important. The staff at the Southern Appalachian Labor School is committed to providing educational experiences that promote health and wellness for the youth in Fayette County. Through offering Food Fest and other programs, they hope to empower youth to make healthier decisions for themselves and their community.



Dear Kathryn,

Recently when I went to the airport, the security guard looked at my YouthBuild lapel pin and stepped forward, "I went to YouthBuild... it saved my life!" he said.

A couple of weeks later I called an 800 number to talk to my credit card contact at an office in Arizona. When she heard I was employed by YouthBuild USA, she said, "Oh, my son went to YouthBuild. It changed his life. I couldn't help him, but YouthBuild did."

I am steadily embraced by messages like these. They come in person, on Facebook, by email. They are all deeply moving. We are making a difference. All our work pushing against the political inertia and social apathy that is willing to abandon millions of young adults to poverty, despair, unemployment, violence, and incarceration, is clearly worth it.

Right now, in America's most hard-pressed urban and rural communities over 10,000 students in 273 YouthBuild programs are rebuilding their lives. Most did not expect to set foot in a classroom again after leaving high school without a diploma. Few dreamed they would ever learn a trade, go to college, or become leaders in their communities. But they do these things and much more. In doing so, they start to believe in themselves again.

It is not only encouragement that undoes past mistreatment and ignites hope, it is access to very real opportunities that so many communities lack. Through the combination of education, community service, homebuilding, personal counseling, caring mentors, job training, and leadership development, students see the path from "out-of-school and out-of-work" to becoming successful and productive members of their communities.

For those who walk firmly down this new road and earn their GED or diploma, get a job, and/or go on to college, life will forever change for the better. The impact of this change affects more than the young people and their communities, it affects us all. Each graduate will directly save the taxpayers \$236,000 over his or her lifetime according to recent research. To date, over 110,000 YouthBuild students have been able to build 21,000 units of affordable housing in their neighborhoods while rebuilding their own lives.

When I think of the thousands of young people who work their way through our programs I am filled with happiness and pride. When I think of the thousands of young

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SALS YouthBuilders remodel a kitchen

people turned away for lack of funds, it breaks my heart. We should open

Today, in YouthBuild programs all over the country, the energy, intelligence, and talent of the students struggling to get back on track are being unleashed. They are beginning to change their lives and the lives of those around them. Your contribution makes this possible.

With thanks and warm regards,

Dorothy Stoneman, Founder and CEO

On The AmeriCorps Front

by Artie Mullins, AmeriCorps Director

As usual, our AmeriCorps members have done a great job in achieving their hours and receiving their education awards. Our AmeriCorps members are selected as full-time members and part-time members from our existing YouthBuild enrollees. Most of Our YouthBuild Members are also reduced halftime AmeriCorps members. While receiving a stipend from YouthBuild, our youth receive an education award from the AmeriCorps program. The education award cannot be turned into cash but has to be applied to tuition and expenses for post high school education. This can be college, technical school, or trade school. We are very fortunate to have this to offer to our members.

The AmeriCorps members, especially the full-time members, had the opportunity to really serve the community during the recent derecho or the summer storm that occurred at the end of June. Two of our members went above and beyond the call of duty by clearing roads of fall-



Measuring the drywall

en trees and debris throughout the first night of the storm. Gary Massey and Travis Leonard are these two members. The night of the storm a group of high school students had ended a week of service and found themselves stranded in our dorm Beards Fork. Gary, Travis and a group of other YouthBuild members, worked throughout the night sawing and removing fallen trees along Beards Fork Road enabling the young volunteers to leave the next morning. AmeriCorps members also made themselves available to serve food, deliver water, and to check on the elderly citizens during the 10 day blackout. A big thanks to our AmeriCorps members!

In June we had major review of our AmeriCorps program by two of YouthBuild/AmeriCorps gurus, Sarah St. Laurent and Matt Clerico. It looks like we will be opening the third year of our AmeriCorps grant without a hitch. As things go, it is getting much more difficult to maintain these government grants. Reporting has become a very time consuming and detail oriented process. So we were pleased to get another year of AmeriCorps funding. Matt is our YouthBuild/AmeriCorps point of contact officer and Sarah St. Laurent is the organization's Senior Director. It was a nerve racking but fruitful review. It was good to spend time with Sarah and Matt and to have some honest and clear direction from the both of them. I look forward to a bigger and better year of service in the next grant year.

Trying Times

by Artie Mullins

This year has been one of the most trying years that I've had during my service here at Southern Appalachian Labor School. What started out to be a good year soon brought misfortune to SALS and me. In February we lost a former Youth Build/AmeriCorps member to an auto ac-

cident. That was Chad Nichols who was one of the nicest guys you'd ever want to meet. He was a guy who had not had the easiest of lives but was one of the most happy-go-lucky people I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. Despite all the things he had overcome Chad was always looking for the better job and the better situation for himself. Everyone at SALS loved Chad and wanted nothing more than to see him succeed at whatever he did. His fellow teammates were very supportive of him and quickly accepted him into our SALS family. It was devastating to hear the news that he had been killed while walking along a dark road. Chad was only 20 years old. Rest in peace my dear friend!

The second event that occurred a few weeks later was the death of a second Youth Build alumni. This time it hit much closer to home for me. The youth whom I had called son for over decade was taken from me. Jeff Mullins was just someone who everyone loved. I was honored to be considered a father by him. Once again, he was a young man who didn't have a very easy life. After a series of bad choices, a failed marriage, and struggles with addictions, Jeff found himself incarcerated for 15 months. Just four months prior to his death, I had rented a car and headed north to bring him home from prison. It was a happy time for all of us to have Jeff back home. He became the repairman and night watchman at the community center in Beards Fork. He had served his time and beat his addiction. He was happy, healthy, and looking forward to college, work and watching his two children grow up. We all noticed the amazing changes in Jeff's behavior. Everyone at SALS embraced Jeff and he found many new friends among our current Youth Build members. Unfortunately, Jeff drowned while swimming in Summersville Dam in late March. It was a shock to us all. A few hundred people gathered for Jeff's funeral. I never knew he had touched the lives of so many people until that day. After the burial, the SALS family provided a beautiful dinner for the bereaved family and friends at the Historic Oak Hill School. It was a blow to me personally, and I think it will be some time before our hearts will be healed from the loss of Jeff Mullins. Jeff was only 28 years old.

Despite the deaths of these two precious friends, the work we do at SALS had to go on. We found ourselves in the midst of several site visits from two of our major grantors, the beginning of our volunteer season, the start of a new recruitment and enrollment cycle, and initiation of a major evaluation of Youth Build Sites of which we were one of the sites selected. It was a challenge to just keep going. There were days when I thought I could not make it through. But with the help of friends and family, I made it through the site visits by grantors and made it through the volunteer season. It was not easy. I would like to thank everyone at SALS for their support through this difficult year and giving Jeff a home during the last months of his life. God bless all of you.

SALS' AfterSchool Program in Full Swing

by Dorothy Rudy & Charlene Newkirk

School is now back in session and so is SALS' 21st Century AfterSchool Program. It began earlier than others. Wednesday, September 4, 2012 with a BANG! This was only the second day of public school and the buses were running late. All of the SALS staff was prepared – we thought!

Bus 1 arrived about 3:30 p.m., and we proceeded to have the children sign in and eat their snack. It was nice to see all of the familiar faces after the long summer. And how they had grown and matured!

About 4:00 p.m., Ms Rudy shouted, “In-coming!!!” and in they came – 24 children from Valley Elementary that none of us had ever seen in our lives. It became chaos as we began organizing the children who had no idea of the routine, knew none of us, and were not sure where they were or why they were there. One little boy (in kindergarten, we discovered), would not tell us his name, only that “I go to Boomer.” (Boomer Headstart in Boomer, WV, which he did – last year!)

Then, as these children were just finishing snacks, along came Bus 4 from Oak Hill, with another gazillion children. Fortunately we knew most of them, but the bus was overloaded and the driver was not a bit happy. Forty-four children and that was only the first day!

SALS has an able and experienced staff, headed by Charlene Newkirk, Coordinator, and supported by LaToya Martin, an experienced teacher in charge of the middle schoolers; Wilda Sauter, one of two Foster Grandparents with many years experience at SALS, who has the older elementary children; and Mrs. ‘Mike’ (Michaelleen) Dorsey, the other Foster Grandparent, with nine years experience, three of them at SALS, who teaches those in kindergarten and 1st grade.

The children have settled in, one grading period is behind us, with most of the children receiving good grades, and we have begun other experiences. October 8 began *Bullying Awareness* week, as we helped the children understand the difference between being a bully and being a pal. Sometimes a hard concept for children and adults alike.

Two weeks later, we celebrated the week of *Lights on AfterSchool*, a nationwide initiative of the AfterSchool Alliance, with a special program on Thursday, October 18. Special guests were Anthony Canada of New River Health Association, Director of the 21st Century Accent Educa-

tion AfterSchool Program at four community centers; Celi VanDyke, New River Health Association's Director of Education; and Josh Asbury, of West Virginia's Department of Education, who oversees the 21st Century Accent Education Program. These guests seemed to enjoy the activities of each classroom, having praise for each staff member. Celi VanDyke joined the children in the Zumba-like Latin dance exercise program conducted every Tuesday by Mercedes Newkirk.

“Frankenstorm” also known as Hurricane Sandy plus two northern storms colliding, effectively eliminated the children's Halloween Party, as it blew in October 29, and kept schools closed on October 30th and 31st, as well. Trees were down, power was out in some areas, and all of us experienced at least 8-10 inches of snow. The children remained focused on the next holiday – Thanksgiving, when they will be out of school for a week, and Christmas, where they hope it will snow, snow, and snow – and the SALS staff can try to catch its collective breath prior to the onslaught of next semester!

ENERGY EXPRESS – 2012

by Vickie Mullins

The six-week summer reading and nutrition program known as Energy Express went very well. We served an average of 35 – 40 kids a day. The program worked because AmeriCorps members serve as mentors, and there is also a certified teacher as coordinator as well as two volunteer coordinators.

The children loved coming to SALS. They have learned to express themselves through art, plays, music, and reading. Some of the same children have come here for several years and this shows that SALS has a good Energy Express program. The children read at least five books a week, and when they are not reading on their own, someone was reading to them one-on-one. We also had a host of volunteers who came in to read and help with the daily activities.

All counties need programs like Energy Express. They make a difference in the children's daily lives during the summer months when kids are out of school and don't focus on reading, writing, or art. Many are bored because living in a rural community limits available activities and transportation to the local swimming pool, which puts a damper on summer!

Energy Express allows children to continue using their minds daily. As far as education, they are still learning! It's an extraordinary program which continues to bring change in children's lives from kindergarten to 5th graders! Parents were pleased that their child became

part of this exciting six-week reading and nutrition program.

Final Newsletter for Many and Ronald's Departure

by Dorothy Rudy

This is a surprising time for those who have been VISTAs here in Beards Fork. It was a time most of us could not believe would come since we were so involved with the activities here in Beards Fork. Kaitlyn Carreau arrived in Beards Fork in August, 2011, as a gardening and community development VISTA from Vermont, to join three others of us already imbedded here in Beards Fork. Kaitlyn fit into the SALS family like a glove and all of us enjoyed her contributions. However all good things had to come to an end, and that included Kaitlyn's year here in Beards Fork. Vermont was just too far away! Upon the successful completion of the 3rd Annual Food Fest, Kaitlyn packed up her belongings including her cat and Baby, her dog, and began the long drive back to Vermont. While here, Kaitlyn planted tomatoes and other crops in the 'high tunnel', which those of us from a previous generation would call a 'hot house'. As nutrition major, she involved the AfterSchool students in preparing and trying many interesting new foods such as sweet potato chips, which was one of her hits, and in general, was heavily involved with the children. And she has been greatly missed.

If Kaitlyn's disappearance was not enough, after nearly three years as AmeriCorps and VISTA volunteers, another two VISTAs completed time at SALS in Beards Fork and also moved on. It really seemed hard to believe that their time, too, was up already. Gary DeLuke and John Flack came to SALS shortly before I did. Gary came from North Carolina, John was a 'local' from Charleston.

Each contributed to the SALS organization here at Beards Fork in many different ways. Gary began as a gardening VISTA, built the 'high tunnel', created a huge community garden with the help of the AfterSchool kids, collaborated with local farmers to form farmers' markets, and with John and Lorien McAuley (another former VISTA), took the kids to Oak Hill's market so they could sell their produce. Gary has been very involved with *Save Our Streams and Trout Unlimited*, writing grants, raising trout from hatchlings in the classroom, mentoring the YouthBuild members, and many other things. Gary even surprised us by joining the blue grass band at CODA Music Academy's final concert playing a Dobro, an acoustical guitar played on his lap.

John, on the other hand, has worked tirelessly behind the scenes with Gary, Kaitlyn, Charlene Newkirk (our

AfterSchool Coordinator) and Wilda Sauter, one of SALS' Foster Grandparents and a tutor of the youngest children in our AfterSchool program. He has also worked with Artie Mullins and Kathryn South in support of the YouthBuild and Global Volunteers programs. Not being one to toot his own horn, unless you were involved in one of his many activities, one would have no idea of his involvement. Upon ending his VISTA term, John is considering graduate school, while continuing to volunteer here in Beards Fork.

Ronald Haskett, a Beards Fork native, who has worked with Artie Mullins and the YouthBuild organization off and on for several years, and who is our skilled wood craftsman, pulled up stakes and flew to the big city of Omaha, Nebraska October 5th. This has been a huge move for Ronald, who has never lived anywhere except Beards Fork, but it has been an exciting time for him as well. Ronald phones his friends back at SALS frequently. He told us that he obtained his learner's permit. Although we really miss his smile, his laugh, his kidding, and his willingness to help anyone at any time, we all are excited for the opportunities he is experiencing in Nebraska.

I am the last VISTA in Beards Fork and have a three month extension. SALS – Beards Fork has become like a second home to me. I began as an AmeriCorps 21st Century AfterSchool tutor, migrated to VISTA, and have worked behind the scenes in many ways. Having come from a business environment, managing the Eastern Division of our company in DC, I brought many needed skills to SALS. Writing newsletter articles, issuing press releases, chronicling years of AfterSchool and neighborhood activities in words and photos, has been a wonderful opportunity. Working with the SALS staff to create and assist them in making their work successful, I was granted the opportunity to respond to bids for grants for the AfterSchool program and the library. It has been wonderful working with the friendly people of Beards Fork. And I have been blessed with so many friends here. I have a house down in the road in Page, but I feel as if I live here in Beards Fork.

Four full-time VISTAs remain. Erica Horton, Barb Painter, and Jeremy Bess are stationed at the Historic Oak Hill School and Lisa Manley is back with YouthBuild. But for the first time in many years, none remain at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork.

The Effects of the 'Derecho' on the Beards Fork Community

by Dorothy Rudy

Fayette County, WV was named as the worst hit county in any of the four states severely affected by the

horrific Friday evening, June 29th 'Derecho' storm. No one had ever heard of a 'Derecho' and I don't think any of us want to experience it again. And that was just the first storm of five in a two week period. Derecho is a storm with hurricane winds (at least 70 mph winds), traveling overland in a straight line, not a circular pattern like a hurricane, and at a high rate of speed. The storm, began in Indiana and ended at the Atlantic Ocean – all in less than 10 hours. Trash cans lashed to power poles blew over the car, trees and transformers were blown down in front of us and the wind just couldn't seem to stop blowing for about ¼ hour. In the end, my 4-wheel drive Blazer and I drove over or around seven trees to get home, waiting for broken trees and limbs to continue to fall in the road – and that was the good part!

Since all of us approached this devastation from different positions, I can speak best about what I saw and did. Not only did we experience the Derecho on Friday, June 29, but we experienced several other horrible storms in the following two weeks. I watched a roof lift off a friend's home in Beards Fork about 15 inches, while his father was on the front porch, and then drop back in place. I was in my car and it scared the pjammers out of me as I feared for his life. And still the storms came.

Coming north on WV 61 from the Page-Kincaid area just 2 ½ miles from Beards Fork Road, little significant damage was visible (excluding the trees I drove over 7 miles away) until about 100 feet from Beards Fork Road, where the high power tower had its power lines broken off and they were dangling in the air and lying on the road. Near the mouth of Beards Fork Hollow, the area looked as if a tornado had struck it. Hundreds of trees were down, most, but not all, lying parallel to Beards Fork Road. The storm, for reasons unknown, spawned an offshoot storm which roared down Beards Fork. Phone and power poles were broken, some on the ground along with the wires, others had the tops of the poles on the ground or dangling in the air. Some residents, including some who work for SALS, were in Montgomery at the time and couldn't get up Beards Fork Road because of the trees. A group of young men worked all night cutting up and moving the trees and poles on the road so people and cars could come and go. All the power and phones were out, so there was risk in working in the pitch black with chain saws when they couldn't see.

Power everywhere was out which meant that by Saturday, most of the area was without water. Few of us had gasoline or power generators to run our fridges. When one filling station opened in the Oak Hill area, the line waiting for the pumps was over an hour long – and then they ran out of fuel. There were no bank services. ATMs require electricity. Stores were closed. In the Page-Kincaid area, most of us had natural gas so at least we could cook what was rapidly thawing in our fridges and freezers due to the hottest days of the summer with tem-

peratures in the high 90s. Those living in Beards Fork were not so lucky however. Although, like Page and Kincaid, it is a former coal camp, natural gas pipelines were not run down into this holler. The SALS Community Center was in better shape. We use propane to cook and our emergency generators were operable, at least for a while. Doors were opened for neighbors to see,

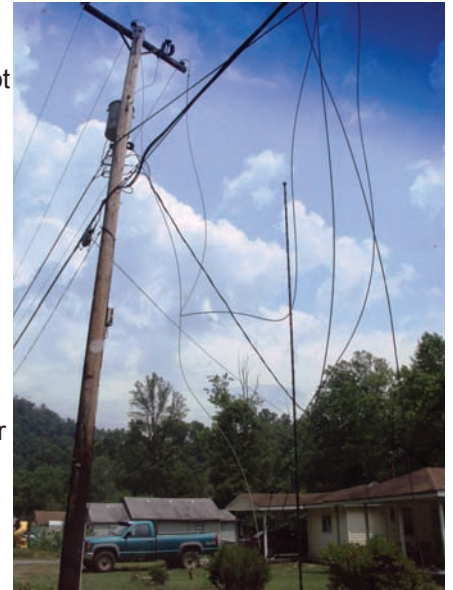
cook and feed their families. In the meantime, FEMA sent an army truck to Page to serve hot meals (cold when they arrived from Oak Hill) – and we didn't need them. I led the National Guard driving a Humvee down the narrow 12 foot wide Beards Fork Road to introduce them to the community which needed them more than Page and Kincaid did. The soldiers were petrified that the road was too narrow to pass. I would get out of my car to go back to the Humvee to coax them on, telling them there was no place to turn around until they reached the SALS Community Center. When they arrived, and saw what I had told them for themselves, they agreed Beards Fork citizens needed help.

At that point, water began to arrive at the Page-Kincaid PSD and I loaded and reloaded my car daily to deliver water to those in Page who had no way of getting it themselves and to every home in Beards Fork. Day after day. Eventually ice arrived too.

John Flack, Kaitlyn Carreau, Gary DeLuke, his friend and I worked tirelessly on disaster recovery for the devastated Beards Fork 'holler'. Gary's friends contributed a truck and loads of water and they too began the delivery of water, then ice.

Arrangements were made for the Chuck Wagon, from Trinity United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee to come to Beards Fork. They arrived with food, preparing breakfast, lunch, and supper – all HOT, with delicious peach cobbler for the folks in the Hollow.

In all, the area was without water, power, and phones for about 12 days. Since cell phones don't work down WV 61 corridor between Oak Hill and Montgomery, all of us were isolated but we did as West Virginians have always done – got out and helped our neighbors – only to face another storm, a winter one this time, with "Franken-Storm" on October 29, 30, and beyond.





One of the many community meetings held to discuss Reinventing SALS. This one was in the Historic Oak Hill School

Reinventing SALS

With a grant from the Benedum Foundation, we have implemented an assessment process with several community meetings. These were held at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork and the Historic Oak Hill School. Many during a time when the storm was still present and schools were closed. Some of those attending so far included the President of the Fayette County Commission Matt Wender, State Senators William Laird & Ron Miller, WV Delegate David Perry, Oak Hill Manager Bill Hannabaas, and Oak Hill City Councilperson Tom Oxley. Their presence stimulated a lively discussion and indicated important interest in our work and sustainability.

Help Reinvent SALS - Take the Survey

by John David, Director of SALS

SALS is currently engaged in an organizational assessment and strategic planning project titled: *"Looking Back, Moving Ahead: Achieving Sustainability and Impact in Community Development for the Southern Appalachian Labor School."*

We would like you to complete a survey that you can access through the Internet in order to assist us with our planning and assessment. The survey is anonymous and confidential. It will probably take you about 15 minutes or less to complete.

Please answer each question as best you can. The survey results will be reviewed and analyzed by independent consultants in order to inform SALS about your perceptions of our organization as well as community priorities and issues.

You can complete the survey from any computer that is connected to the Internet.

To access the survey click on this link or cut & paste

or type the following link into your internet browser:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SALS_Stakeholder

At the end of the survey click on "Done" and your survey responses will be submitted. Please complete the survey only one time. That's it - Thank You for your help!

Farewell to SALS, Still Serving Our Communities

by Gary DeLuke

I feel a myriad of emotions when thinking about my three terms as an AmeriCorps VISTA with YouthBuild and SALS. Each project in each year, wrought with different challenges, accomplishments, frustrations, and triumphs, helped me understand where I fit in with the SALS family. I hope that at least some of my work will live on in the future of Beards Fork and Fayette County. I cannot say that I will be totally removed from the SALS universe, for who knows what my future may bring? I enjoyed my service, and I will remember it fondly, as I continue my work serving our communities.

Moving forward . . . I have been spending some time in Far Rockaway, NY, helping folks deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. I went up with some folks from the Beaver Enterprise Center and Beaver Farmers' market to work with a church and community center called the Community Church of the Nazarene on Central Avenue. I spend my nights on a cot in a small office, and my days frantically mobilizing volunteers, helping organize distribution of donated goods and hot meals, and coordinating deliveries and storage of donations. There is a lot of work to be done, and probably will be for many months to come. Groups of volunteers will soon be working to clean up and repair damaged homes, and it looks like I will be traveling up there periodically for the next several months to contribute whatever time I can.

Beards Fork Clinic Reopens

by Dan Doyle M.D.

Beards Fork Clinic resumed services on June 28, 2012. This is a joint project of SALS and New River Health Association to provide affordable health care to SALS staff and the surrounding community. The clinic operated one half day a month from 2004 to 2011. There was an 11 month pause during July 2011 through May 2012.

Since June 28, there have been six clinic sessions with a total of 49 patient visits. The main focus is on making sure that all Youthbuild participants receive a baseline physical exam. Between June 28 and August 9, 26 of 27 eligible Youthbuild participants received physical exams. A big "thank you" goes to a team effort by Vickie Smith, Vickie Mullins, Erica Horton, Barbara Painter, Dave Shaver, Terry Black, Jim Adkins, Ron Yellets, and Andrew Munn for making this possible. Some of the physicals were done at the Historic Oak Hill School and some at the Beards Fork Center. Dan Doyle M.D. and Katie Coffey FNP both worked to complete physical exams. All medical records of these exams are filed in the electronic medical record at New River Health. Dr. Doyle explained that these records are available to Youthbuild members if they should ever need them.

Now, the focus of the clinic is on researching immunization histories on Youthbuild members. Blood tests are being done to determine which youth need Hepatitis B immunizations. This involves a series of three shots which will be provided free to eligible youth. Many youth also need a Tdap vaccine which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. Tetanus is also known as "lock-jaw" and comes from dirt getting into wounds. Pertussis is also known as whooping cough.

The Beards Fork Clinic is held at the Beards Fork Center on the last Thursday of each month from 8:30 am to noon. No appointment is needed. But, if possible, SALS staff should let Vickie Mullins know they would like to be seen. Her number is 304-779-2280.

Housing and Counseling

by Debra Spurlock

The past few months have been very busy but productive. After lots of hard work and overcoming many obstacles we have managed to close on two of our Hilltop houses. We now have some new homeowners in our area. One house was sold to a young family of four, soon to be five. They are first time home-buyers. They were so excited to move in their own home. They had rented in the SALS Journal

past. Now that monthly payment will go towards owning the house. The other house was sold to a young single mom who is working and attending school. She too is very excited to have her own place. It is a great feeling to know you played a part in helping someone make their dreams come true. I am in the process now of finding qualifying families for our next two homes. This is a complicated process. But it is a part of helping others achieve their goals.

We also completed another successful year of Group WorkCamp, now called Group Cares. Young people swarmed into our area from all over the United States to help brighten up our neighborhoods. This program helps our area in many ways. It helps local businesses with all of the spending, it helps by doing minor repairs to a lot of homes in our area, and it helps the elderly with companionship. I have always been a fan of this program. I hope it continues in the future.

We have obtained some help with our food pantry. We now receive food through the Mountaineer Food Bank. We are able to help families in our area with food on a monthly basis. With the economy the way it is our food list has grown. I am just glad that we are able to help out.

We were very, very busy during the June 29th storm. When it hit I was at bingo in Montgomery. The power went out, power lines fell, and roads were blocked. I was determined to get home to my family. My daughter was in Charleston at the movies. She too was trying to get home. After many hours I was finally able to get to the mouth of Beards Fork where I live. I waited there on my daughter and her boyfriend. When they arrived we began our journey of walking the two and a half miles to our home. It was so dark! We climbed over trees and under trees, over power lines and under power lines. There must have been fifty trees across the road. After going about a mile or so we came up on a massive pile of trees. But on the other side of the mess I spotted headlights. I eagerly began to work my way through, leaving the others behind. I as I got closer the lights went off. I yelled to them. The lights came back on. When I stumbled through the last patch of debris I saw my son's neighbor. He informed me that my son had just went back up the road for some help. My son and his friend had been sawing the trees and unblocking the road for hours. We got a ride the rest of the way home. They continued the rest of the night until it was possible to get in and out of Beards Fork. This was the beginning of a two week disaster. No power, no water and extreme heat. I along with many others joined together to deliver water, MRE's and food to local residents. One day we were in Mulberry delivering water door to door when another storm hit. We were on the mountainside, way back in the woods. We had walked about a half a mile to a small house on the side of the mountain. After giving the lady her water we asked her name. She asked us to wait while she went and got it. While we were waiting the wind started blowing, it started raining, and the trees were

bending over. We kept telling her we had to leave. She begged us to wait. Finally we had to go but we promised to come back. We had to stop and move a tree to get out. After the storm passed we went back. The lady was waiting there with a small note pad and pen for us to get her name. She said no one ever came out that far. She was so glad that we had helped her. This made all the hard work worth it. This disaster brought a lot of people together. People who hadn't talked in years got out and talked to each other. It just shows you how something good can come out of something bad.

It is always busy here at SALS with letters to type, reports to due, files to complete and people to help.

A Day On, Not a Day Off!

by Joyce Brown, source www.MLKDay.org

January 21, 2013 will mark the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. This is a perfect opportunity for Americans to honor Dr. King's legacy through service. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community.

In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort. Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only holiday observed as a national day of service – a “day on, not a day off.” The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.

Why Serve on MLK Day?

Dr. King believed in a nation of freedom and justice for all, and encouraged all citizens to live up to the purpose and potential of America by applying the principles of nonviolence to make this country a better place to live—creating the Beloved Community.

The MLK Day of Service is a way to transform Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings into community actions that help solve social problems. That service may meet a tangible need, or it may meet a need of the spirit. On this day, Americans of every age and background will celebrate Dr. King through service projects that strengthen communities, empower individuals, bridge barriers, and create solutions.

Come on Friends of SALS, let's make Monday, January 12, 2013, a day on; not a day off.

SALS Journal

Coalfield Environmental Health Project

by Andrew Munn

In the last few newsletters, there have been articles about the Frasere Creek Mining surface mines in the Loup Creek area. Those who live here are already familiar with the mines and know better than I can explain how they are affecting our communities. Due to surface mining's ongoing influence on the communities in the Loup Creek area, SALS is launching the Coalfield Environmental Health Project.

The Project will do two things. First, we will host a series of community forums on the impacts of surface mining. These are neither pro coal nor anti coal events, but will be a time for folks to get together and get important information on surface mining, the new science showing links between surface mining and a range of illnesses, and most importantly how to use existing laws, such as the Clean Water Act and the Surface Mine Reclamation Act to protect you and your neighbor's property. Even to an expert these laws can be confusing, so we'll do our best to break it down into useful pieces of information.

Secondly, we will host a series of trainings for those who are facing problems such as blasting damage, dust, or flooding. These trainings will walk you through the process of filing complaints and discuss what is needed for a successful lawsuit in cases where damage cannot be fixed by the regulatory process.

The dates of these forums and trainings will be published in newspapers and our next newsletter, and posted around the county.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Andrew Munn at 304-731-1740 or anromu@gmail.com.

Global Volunteers, Continued from page one

Global Volunteers give our young people the opportunity to experience types of relationships they would not otherwise encounter. It is inspiring to watch a lawyer, school teacher, fireman or entrepreneur forge a relationship with one of our youth. They bring the world into our hills & hollows. This summer our students played host to people from all walks of life and from all around the world. We hosted families from as near as Ohio and far away as California. We hosted a group sponsored by their employer, a pharmaceutical company. It was the first time a company had used us as a team building retreat for its employees. The employees arrived from all over the US, Canada, and India. It was a great experience for the individual employees as well as a great success for the employer and Global Volunteers.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who have given of themselves throughout the year. Global Volunteers is just one part of those who serve each year. Whether it is students from the colleges all over the country performing community service; faith based groups or individual volunteers....thank you so much for your contribution. We could not do this work without you.

Director's Report, continued from page three

state kick-off site for a traveling exhibition from the WV Humanities Council that documented the birth of the state of West Virginia 150 years ago. Both centers have food pantries.

For next year, numerous university student group and Global Volunteers have already reserved workcamp weeks. SALS will have two new summer partners, one being the Appalachian Service Project which will also be housed at the Historic Oak Hill School and the second being the WVCCC, which is coordinating the community service projects for 32,000 scouts who will be attending the National Boy Scout Jamboree in Fayette County. The scouts will work on 350 project sites, including two with SALS.

Grant funds since Spring have helped keep us being a force for good. Example include the Benedum Foundation (directly and through Community Works), WV Housing Development Fund, USDA-RD, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Beckley Area Foundation, EPA, WV Department of Education, WVU Extension, AmeriCorps through YouthBuild USA, and support through the Legislature, Fayette County Commission, and municipalities. To enhance sustainability, SALS has been accepted as a member of the United Way of Southern WV and the Federal campaign that covers employees in nearly 40 counties in WV. Donations are also a huge component in our work, with books coming from libraries in Kanawha and Raleigh counties, youth rafting from Class VI and Joe Mario, food from the Mountaineer Food Bank, and business/individual donors who participate in our NIP tax-credit program through the WV Development Office. SALS has been awarded a 2013 Stream Partner's Grant from the WV Department of Environmental Protection.

Key staff are developing specializations. Joyce Brown is preparing numerous proposals, Artie Mullins is juggling the managing of AmeriCorps and demands at the Community Center in Beards Fork, Kathryn South is handling the YouthBuild complexities, Debbie Spurlock is dealing with numerous requirements from our housing partners, Ruth Lanham is busily assembling required administrative documentation, Vickie Smith is maintaining our challenging housing initiatives as well as creating the emergence of a viable Historic Oak Hill School, Vickie Mullins is coordinating the continuation of services at the Center in Beards Fork, and part-time Gary Zuckett has become a key leader in the state-wide movement for economic and social justice. I have left WVU Tech after 41 years to jump onto the SALS treadmill full time, even though many say that already occurred decades ago.

Thanks to slots provided by the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises and Community Works WV, several on the SALS staff have obtained housing specialty

credentials at week long training institutes conducted by Neighbor Works in New Orleans and Cincinnati.

The annual Holiday Season Event which was held at the Historic Oak Hill School, had new features this year. In addition to the traditional meal and tributes, Dr. Dan Doyle completed a series of Hepatitis injections and the Health Bus from the New River Health Association/Cabin Creek Health Systems provided dental screenings. Dr. Dan has also re-opened the health care service through the New River Health Association at both SALS Community Centers and has been productively busy.

There is much more to say and many important matters of interest have likely been inadvertently left out. But the bottom line is that we are thankful that another year of working together, sharing good times and surviving bad times, has passed knowing that you are with us. We wish you the very best and hope that you do good things, stay in good health, and remain in touch

CODA Music, continued from page one

guitars, steel guitars, banjos, mandolins, to study in one of two tracts – classical or bluegrass. Students, between the ages of 12 and 20 years, migrated from three states to learn and practice all day, everyday. With one exception, Beards Fork's own Azalea (Zae) Davis, all arrived several years of experience under their belts.

For CODA, this was their fifth Summer Festival in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains and SALS' first experience hosting the Festival. To quote CODA's website, "This summer program was founded in 2007 by Charles and Esther Morey to promote artistic excellence in students in Appalachia and beyond. CODA serves students regardless of race, color or creed from public, private and home schools."

Beards Fork just hummed. Every inch of space in the school, dorm, and church dorm was occupied by students, teachers, and instruments. Three keyboards occupied the center hall in the Beards Fork building, while those studying bluegrass took over the old church dorm.

Zae spent every waking moment at the keyboard nearest the front door. With no experience on a piano or keyboard, she focused not only in learning to play the instrument, but to compose a beautiful, complex piece she named "In His Presence," and then learning to put scribe notes to paper, a difficult task for those experienced – and she had none prior to August 9th.

The faculty presented two concerts, which were wonderful, but the students were absolutely phenomenal and the bluegrass students just really got into the swing of it, literally. As a VISTA who postponed her vacation to enjoy the benefits of the CODA Academy practices and concerts, the music and the cultural experiences were fantastic for both participants and audience alike.

SALS wishes to invite the CODA Mountain Music Academy back to Beards Fork for its Sixth Summer Festival next year.

Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

www.sals.info

SALS Community Center in Beards Fork

304-779-2772/ph/fax or 779-2280 or 578-5057

SALS Historic Oak Hill School

304-465-4246 phone/fax

WVU-Tech office: 304-442-3156

or 442-3042 or fax only 442-3285

Debbie Spurlock, Housing Counseling: 304-442-3328

Vickie Smith, Const. : 304-640-3792, fax 469-9721

John David, Director - 304-465-9732

Joyce Brown, Program Support/Counselor

- 304-442-3328

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

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Youth Build Trainer
Custodian
YouthBuild Trainer
YouthBuild Trainer
YouthBuild Trainer

AmeriCorps/VISTA

Barbara Painter	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Dorothy Rudy	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Erica Horton	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Lisa Manley	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Jeremy Bess	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Robert Murphy	AmeriCorps
Gary Haney	AmeriCorps
Adam Davis	AmeriCorps
Travis Leonard	AmeriCorps

'Accent Education' After School Program

Charlene Newkirk	Site Coordinator
Tony Canada	Project Director
Latoya Ray	Teacher
Wilda Salter	Foster Grandparent
Michaelleen Dorsey	Foster Grandparent

Energy Express

Nikki Lucas, Site Supervisor

Environmental Justice

Andrew Munn

Environmental Health Clinic Project

Dr. Dan Doyle, M.D.

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

LeeAnn Gore & Mary Lynn Flint

WVU Extension Service

Lauren Weatherford, Andrea Meader

Casandra Bandy

Bookkeeping Team

Valarie Cowley, Ruth Lanham

Tom Bass, Artie Mullins, 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

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

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.

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