

# SALS JOURNAL



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Winter 2014

## A DECADE OF SERVICE AT SALS

*Artie Mullins,  
AmeriCorps Director and Volunteer Coordinator*

**“A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.”**

This is a very popular quote from the Bible. After being at SALS for a little over a decade I can't help but feel that many good things that SALS has done for the community have gone unnoticed and unappreciated. I feel that these words from the Bible sum up how many days at SALS have felt. No matter what we have done to help others there seems to be an air of disdain and lack of appreciation coming from some people in the community. For the most part, the community has always supported SALS and championed many of the things that we try to accomplish. But like all situations, the negative comments sometimes seem to override that support. I guess there is another quote that states "one bad apple can spoil the whole bunch." It can be very frustrating to watch as one or two community members drag the organizations name through the mud. And even more disappointing is the fact that most of those people have gained immensely from SALS presence in the community.

On a positive note, despite critics SALS has in the past and will continue to be a positive presence in the community. I don't need to defend the positive things SALS has done over the years because the fact that SALS is responsible for so many people having new or rehabilitated housing that is clean, warm, and safe stands as tangible proof. I don't think there is a single family in a 100 mile radius which doesn't have a family member who has been positively impacted by SALS, whether it be housing, assistance, or employment. When I travel to other counties where there is not an organization such as ours and people inquire as to what Southern Appalachian



*Artie Mullins (glasses on top of head) with a group of volunteers circa 2009*

Labor School does, they are always amazed and asked if we could travel to their county. SALS' is really a unique organization doing a much-needed work in this area of the country.

For over a decade now, I have devoted many hours to assuring that the work I do at SALS sustains the organization in a positive way. I started my work at SALS as an AmeriCorps member. I have worked since then in many areas and have a real feel for those positive things that SALS can do. I have worked on files to prepare families for new homes and rehabilitated homes; I have repaired and covered roofs for people who had no alternative; I have prepared and delivered food to people in the community when they had no food; I have hosted thousands of volunteers who selflessly worked on our communities' homes; and I have supported and mentored a slew of young people who felt like their community had abandoned them. SALS' has provided me the means to do these things that my heart knows I was put on earth to do. And my individual role at SALS is only a tiny piece of the great service that SALS performs in the community.

*Continued on page ten*

# Youth News

*Kathryn South, Youth Build*

Since SALS' last newsletter, folks around Beards Fork and Oak Hill have been busy trying to keep focused on providing needed assistance to the youth and to the older folks in our area.

Beth Johnson and I attended a training in Pittsburgh, PA a few months ago that dealt with how to work with people who want to get off drugs. It is difficult to talk with youth about why they do destructive things that could cause so much damage to their bodies. The training was a special project through Youth Build USA and only a few programs in the eastern region were considered for the project.

We hope to begin a program in our area with family members who need help with assisting their children on getting off drugs. Listening to the youth is one of the most important points a parent can do to help their child decide to make a change in his or her life for a more positive outcome.

Beth and I also attended a training on parenting and coming together as a group to assist each other with issues that their children are facing. So far it has been very difficult to get busy parents to set aside time to meet to discuss some problems they may be having and a lot of parents just do not want to speak about these important topics that affect our youth today.

Barb Painter and I attended a training in Cross Lanes on how to get our buildings ready as a shelter when and if the needs arise to house folks during a disaster. We need lots of help with getting both SALS community centers more handicap accessible. Changing door knobs and making sure doorways are wide enough to accommodate a wheel chair and walkers are a few of the changes we need to address. The training was very helpful and gave us more information to assist people in our areas.

We are working with ROSS/IES, which is a work-force organization that puts youth in different training programs for job placement and career building. We currently have four slots for youth ages 16-20 to learn new skills and do workshops that will further his or her opportunities toward a job or a career.

The mentoring program is going slowly, but we do have five youth enrolled and five mentors enrolled. Not all the youth are matched at this time so we are working on helping them find the person who will fit the youths' needs as a person they can trust and look to for guidance.

We're looking forward to volunteers coming to WV in early 2015 and hope that the weather is not as bad as all the weather forecasters claim!

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## In With The New

*Lisa Manley*

Well, this is my last year as an AmeriCorps VISTA. But before anybody says "oh I am gonna miss her", SALS has decided to keep me, which I am very happy about because there is still so much to be done. As a VISTA I could only do indirect service; now I can get in there and really try to make a difference.

We had two groups come in for the summer. Appalachian Service Project worked in the Oak Hill area and Group mission trips worked in Kanawha County and Fayette County. Together these two groups helped 40 families. Then as an added bonus Joan Stewart the Executive Director of the WV Ministry and Advocacy and Workcamps contacted us to see if we had any referrals. ASP and Group can only do so many homes in the time they are here so we had plenty of names to give her. So in reality there were more than 40 families that had some work done this past summer. I just want to make sure each group of volunteers receive recognition for the good work they do. I can only name the groups since together there were more than 1,000 volunteers. I have already started a list of names for next summer.

The food pantry in Beards Fork is also doing well. The number of families coming to the pantry has increased. The SALS gals have been having hot dog and bake sales to buy food for the pantry and to raise money for the after school program but donations are always welcome. Anyone reading this and lives in the area from Kincaid to Deepwater and would like more information on getting food or donating can call Ruth Lanham at the Kincaid office 304/250-7627 or Vickie Mullins at the Beards Fork office 304/779-2280.

One last thing, SALS is building a house in Oak Hill on the corner of School Street and Central Avenue. This house will be sold to a low income family. To qualify you must be in the income guideline and have good credit. The house is not finished yet so if you are interested and have credit problems you may have time to get their credit score up. If you have no credit you can use alternative credit which is car insurance, cell phone, rent, utilities with a history of making your payments on time for 12 months.

SALS does not make the house loans but we can help you through the process. For more information on the incoming guidelines and an application call Lisa Manley 304/250-7627 or Vickie Smith 304/640-3792.

# Director's Report

by John David

SALS is at a critical juncture for survival. Due to a drastic economic shift in the coalfields, demands have skyrocketed and we have "taken on" an increased number of concerns that have become overwhelming. While this has generated considerable good-will and appreciation, it has also brought forward those who are ungrateful. As Artie reflects in his article, it is discouraging when a loud "few" reveal how greedy and selfish they really are. For that reason, as well as due to simple exhaustion, key SALS people like Artie are entering retirement. For years upon years, they have given their blood, sweat, and tears for others and we all owe them tremendous gratitude. Thank you, Artie, for being a terrific friend and a loyal part of the SALS Family and its Leadership Team.

In nuts and bolts news, SALS is preparing to begin rehabilitation of Regina Apartments in Gauley Bridge. The radio station has been awarded a clear-channel license by the FCC at 106.5 FM and efforts are underway to obtain a transmitter, construct an antenna, and build a studio, all at the Historic Oak Hill School. Several more houses in the Upper Kanawha Valley have been donated. Community Works and USDA have given us a loan to complete a house in Montgomery. Enrollment in the after school program has increased and Energy Express had an excellent summer. The classroom trout and stream monitoring program went very well to the dismay of the WV Department of Environmental Protection's Stream Partners Program which want us dismantled and extensive funds returned. The Historic Oak Hill School lost its boiler but is a candidate for the National Registry of Historic Places. The workcamp program also went well with about 40 homes repaired in the Upper Kanawha Valley, Beckley, and the Plateau area of Fayette County. SALS hosted for the second time a Senate Hearing, this time on re-invigorating the area's hard-hit counties. The food pantry distributions are up at both SALS facilities.

SALS staff has completed numerous trainings and certifications since July. They include: Budget Basics: Decoding the Mysteries of the Pro Forma; Lending Basics for Homeownership Counselors; Compliance with State and Federal Regulations; Counseling Clients Seeking Rental Housing; Rental Housing Development

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*Director John David testifies at the Select Senate SCORE hearing held in November at our Historic Oakhill School*

Finance; How to Maintain Compliance in LIHTC Projects; and CHDO Workshop: Understanding the 2013 HOME Final Rule.

SALS' has received several grants since summer. They include Home Depot for Veterans, USDA Housing Preservation Grant, the Community Affordable Housing Equity Corporation for rehabilitating donated homes, the American Lung Association in WV, Change the Future WV, and the West Virginia Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

The WV Department of Highways will soon be "trailblazing" visitors to the Historic Oak Hill School from the U.S. 19 Main Street exit in Oak Hill.

As we enter the New Year, I wish to convey my best to all. Please stay well, do good things, and stay in touch. Your loyal support keeps hope alive and is greatly appreciated.



*John and a group from Global Volunteers showing off newly painted Kincaid post office.*

# Construction Report

*Vickie Smith, Construction Manager*

We have begun construction on a new house on the corner of School Street and Central Avenue in Oak Hill. This home will meet both the Affordable Housing HUD/HOME guidelines and the Energy Star 3 guidelines. It will be completed by summer of 2015. We are looking for an eligible family for this home now.

We have transitioned the one house remaining on Roberts Avenue in Oak Hill. We are working through the long list of paperwork so that this deserving family can begin to enjoy the new home.

We are currently working on two rehabs which should be completed soon. One home is a general rehab, the other is a donated home that is being renovated and will be available soon. We are also looking for an eligible family for this house.

I have been very busy attending various housing seminars and then taking and passing housing exams to enable me to assist these eligible families with all of the paperwork required to purchase affordable housing. There is more to it than anyone realizes.

I would also like to remind everyone that there are still tax credits available for donations made to SALS. Building supplies are appreciated!



*Vickie Smith & John David with workers rehabbing the Regina Apartment units in Gauley Bridge*



*Kids and parents enjoy the children's performances at Energy Express summer program.*

## What Are Those Kids Doing?

*Beth Johnson, VISTA*

At SALS, kids are having fun and learning from the S.T.E.A.M. projects during the summer.

The "Accent Education" After School program has worked with the youth and children on NASA projects as well as various art and science projects. In the summer, Energy Express opens at SALS/Beards Fork to engage children in grades 1st – 6th in fun reading and writing projects to help retain some of the knowledge normally lost during those long summer months. The youth – grades 7th – 12th also come to Energy Express to volunteer, monitor and read to the children and help out where needed.

A three member team from SALS wrote a grant with TryThisWV – [www.trythiswv.com](http://www.trythiswv.com) – and attended the Conference at West Virginia Wesleyan in June before Energy Express started. The grant was partially approved and awarded to SALS for the youth to learn S.T.E.A.M. learning and engaging activities in the garden and with the Global Volunteers, Summer VISTA's, and the Zumba coach.

In the garden many things can be taught to the children and youth. Science is experienced through natural science and the miracles of life. Technology is used in researching the best set up for the garden, Engineering is learned and used in plotting the field, Arts is used in the set up or landscaping, Math is taught and used in the planting of the seeds or plants by calculating how much room is needed for what type of plant chosen for that area. Most importantly – they have fun and get fresh air and exercise while learning a skill they can use throughout

their lifetimes.

This winter is planned by the after school staff and volunteers with gardening in both the high tunnel and indoors being a part of the curriculum. Please feel free to come by the Beards Fork or Oak hill sites and register to volunteer anytime.

## What's New At SALS

by Vickie Mullins

The SALS family is still hanging on with little funding. The grants are basically running out; our stream of funding has dried up. Some may ask, how are you staying alive? Only by the grace of God and good people who continue to donate because they see the good work SALS does for low-income Fayette County families. We are still rehabbing, weatherizing, and building homes, and providing After School Program where children from all over Fayette County come to be tutored, watched over, fed snacks and a dinner, bussed home, all located in a safe environment between the hours of three and six o'clock.

During the summer we continue to provide families and children with education and meals by offering them a six week summer reading program known as Energy Express. This program provides 40 kids a chance to keep their reading level maintained until they return back to school. We have a coordinator and eight AmeriCorps members, plus two volunteer coordinators who successfully have run the program from June to August for the last 15 or more years. In order for SALS to continue to serve the children and provide them with all the educational skills through WVU (which is a sponsor of Energy Express), we have to match the funding. Our match is to raise \$12,000.00. We ask you to please give. We as citizens and Americans are all fighting for the same cause. The children are "The Future" and we must continue providing them with love, patience, understanding, safety, food, education, and home improvements.

As we move forward at SALS; we see a bright future. It may be dark right now; but the light will shine again because we continue to have hope and faith that our mission with focus on helping others, since that is where our blessings come from. As the saying goes: "If I can help someone along life's way, I know my living won't be in vain".



## Fresh Face Joins Team

LaToya Ray

I just recently joined the SALS Team in July, 2014 working with AmeriCorps YouthBuild program. Working throughout the communities has been a pleasure, getting to meet new friends and see old acquaintances. We teamed up with communities to help build healthy communities and to help get kids moving in the after school program and other activities that benefit YouthBuild families.

- Thirty percent of students who do not attend after school programs said they would like to attend, if one was available in their community.
- Only 13 percent of West Virginia school children (36,800) attend an after school program.
- More than 21 percent of West Virginia school children (59,600) are on their own after school, responsible for taking care of themselves. (Source: State Fact Sheet, After School Alliance 2013)

So we are very fortunate to be able to have the only after school program within a 15 mile radius.

The children are learning lots of new things. Also, with the help of Princeton University, our garden beds are clean and a few plants are in for the winter. This will ensure that we have fresh veggies for the winter. The college students from Princeton University also spoke with our kids about our science projects, inside gardening, and planet art work that the kids are doing.



*Cheer Magic class at gym of SALS Historic Oakhill School and community center*

*Reprinted with permission from the October 2014 issue of Rural Voices, a publication of the Housing Assistance Council.*

# Making Almost Heaven a Reality in Rural West Virginia

by John David, Director, Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS)

Converting a log cabin to a modern home means this widow does not have to live in the cold



Nancy Labus wears a heart-shaped pendant in remembrance of her husband

Nancy and Cecil (Cork) Labus decided 19 years ago to return home to West Virginia and looked for a rural inexpensive house near where Cork had family. They found an old place that had been unoccupied for a decade near Hico, West Virginia in Fayette County.

Fayette County is "at risk" as defined by the Appalachian Regional Commission. Recently, USDA-Rural Development added the county to its "Strikeforce" category citing pervasive poverty and related socio-economic factors. People who once worked hard in coal mining and resource-based industries are struggling to survive and many, such as Nancy and Cork, had health issues.

The house that Nancy and Cork found was actually a three wall log cabin structure with an "add on" on the fourth side. The roof consisted of trusses and rafters made from tree limbs. The house was heated by a wood burner and wires dangled dangerously inside and out. Needless to say the rehabilitation of this house presented a unique challenge to members of Youth-Build, AmeriCorps, and volunteer programs with the Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS) who participated in helping to rehabilitate Nancy and Cork's house.

Vickie Smith, who has been the SALS Construction Manager and licensed contractor for 20 years, had never seen a house like Cork and Nancy's before. At first Vickie

expressed dismay that the home was on the "to do" list for her. But Nancy, who had heard about the SALS program in a newspaper featured article, was tenacious to see her house rehabilitated. She called SALS over and over for at least a year and until she finally prevailed. SALS then engaged in the tedious process of cobbling together funds from the Pittsburgh Federal Home Loan Bank/United Bank's Affordable Housing Program, USDA-Rural Development's Housing Preservation Grant program, residual money from other projects, and tax-credit donations through the West Virginia Neighborhood Investment Program to assemble a "Force to Make a Difference" for the Labus family. The job was turned over to Dave Shaver, a seasoned SALS site supervisor, who has experience with turning around almost impossible to rehabilitate houses into something beautiful.

The rehabilitating process was helped considerably by the grateful attitude exhibited by Nancy and Cork. While they had no children together, Nancy had several by a previous marriage. Her son, along with Cork, worked on the roof as "self-help sweat-equity". Nancy provided holiday presents and cooked for the crew, which was highly appreciated since the house was a long ways from anywhere. Crew





Nancy Labus (left) and Vickie Smith of SALS enjoy a peaceful moment together

members even helped cook and Nancy now jokes that the nearly two year project took longer than needed because nobody wanted to leave. Daniel David, a crew member from the first day of construction, recalls that the house was tough but the family's support made everyone more than willing to go the extra mile.

The energy audit conducted by SALS on the house was off the charts. The entire house had to be insulated and almost everything inside and outside of the house had to be either replaced or rebuilt. The logs of the cabin had to be sheeted inside and out due to cracks, skeletons of critters in the attic had to be removed, and tree branches supporting the roof had to be reinforced. The windows that were popping out had to be custom made, Energy Star rated, and

re-fitted. The back entrance with steps had to be totally re-built since access was impossible, not to mention the wood burner and pipe had to be replaced with an Energy Star HVAC (heat/AC) system. The crew installed all new wiring, and due to a new regional rural water system, the Labus' old well which contained brown iron-water had to be disconnected and new plumbing installed. Crew members also leveled and fixed the floors because the new added on rooms and porches had various levels, support structures, and underpinning. Nancy recalls a situation where it took three hours and a smoking hot drill to install a light due to the logs and hard wood used throughout the house.

Despite everything that had to be done, Nancy could not hide her excitement at seeing her home coming together. She kept telling crew members "Thank you! Thank you!" and says she cried a lot with happiness. She now says she is "real proud" of her home. As she puts it, "The house is no longer an eyesore along the highway". Some of Nancy's most special



*Some of Nancy's most special moments were being around the crew who contributed so much love, sweat, and tears for her "Home Sweet Home" in Almost Heaven, West Virginia.*

moments were being around the crew who contributed so much love, sweat, and tears for her "Home Sweet Home" in Almost Heaven West Virginia.

The house was completed nearly five years ago. Then, just last year on December 19, 2013, Cork suddenly died after over 30 years of marriage. In remembrance of him and his memories, Nancy wears a heart-shaped pendant containing some of his ashes. She said the welfare department in West Virginia offered to pay \$1,250 for his arrangements, but it wanted to put a repayment lien on the house. Proudly, thanks to having the house done by SALS at no cost, Nancy said she turned down the offer. She told us that she wanted to be "debt-free at last".

As Vickie and I concluded our visit, Nancy hugged us and cried. But the day was not over. The home health nurse was knocking on the front door. It was time to keep hope alive.



## Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS)

The Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS) is a West Virginia nonprofit that provides education, research, and linkages for working class and disenfranchised peoples in order to promote understanding, empowerment, and change. SALS is committed to developing a real comprehension of the social, economic, and legal structures which affect the lives of the Appalachian people.

# Friday's Hot Dog Sales

*Vickie Mullins*

At the end of the week or should I say on the last day (Friday), many look forward to that day because the weekend is approaching. But I look forward to going up to the Raynes Building to sell hotdogs. Our fundraising has been successful. It's not bringing a large amount of money, but it brings in good conversation, laughter, togetherness and we eat some good hotdogs!

We sell an average of 40 to 50 hotdogs plus cakes and cookies every Friday. As we continue, we would like to sell other dinners that would provide us with more funds. Our proceeds goes toward our After School program, helping with the cost since there is little funding to keep it running.

The season for giving is upon us, (Christmas). Please look deep within your hearts and keep a child warm by giving him or her in a safe warm building to come and learn, eat, and receive homework tutoring. If we don't get funding through donations, we will have to close our doors. The children enjoy coming to the center. It's the only place some of them have to go because there is no one at home to care for them at the hour of 3:00 p.m.

Parents have to work to make ends meet, grandparents are old, sick, and many are in nursing homes. They need us and we love them. We won't stop or shut down. We will sell hotdogs, and everything else to continue our program that keeps our kids from getting and staying out of trouble. After School programs are a "Work in Progress" all over. These programs work for all ages of kids.

# It's The Season

*Barb Painter/VISTA*

This has been a very busy time.

I spent six weeks this summer coordinating the delivery of lunches to low income children in Fayette County, at Pine Knoll and Fayette Manor Apartments. It was a pleasure to get to know these children and guardians, as well as seeing a smile on the faces and knowing that these wonderful children weren't going to bed hungry. This summer lunch program is wonderful! I also had the chance to work one on one with Elizabeth, one of our young Global Volunteers. She was always smiling! The kids loved her.

In receipt of a grant from West Virginia Department of Energy, SALS partnered with the Fayette County Commission to administer the Fayette Energy Efficiency

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Program. I set up 80 home visits and obtained the information to enter energy audits and also did a short energy efficiency client education at each home I visited. I enjoyed meeting the families and teaching them how to conserve energy.

I have continued to work with the Mountaineer Food Bank and order food items which are given to low income families each month. The new change is that everyone that comes in must verify their income and complete an application. We have not been receiving much food; even the Food Bank's donations are low.

My husband, Tom, SALS Board Member Jim Hores, and I visited the Civic Center in Charleston in late October to take advantage of the book give away by the Kanawha County Public Libraries. We had one hour to pack books and get them in the vehicle. We obtained a lot of children's books for our after school program in Beards Fork.

Two of the several grants I have written have been approved. One was a RAZE program which will allow our youth in the Accent Education Program to learn more about tobacco, how to avoid it, and if they are already involved, how to quit smoking or using of smokeless tobacco. The other grant is the Change the Future WV which will allow SALS to do a program during the winter to improve health and also quit smoking to increase the indoor air quality in people's homes.

I have continued working with the Local Emergency Planning Committee in Fayette County, and staying prepared in case of an emergency. Kathryn and I also attended a training to run emergency shelters in September. Beth completed her training as well.

*Continued on page ten*



*Barb Painter sets up the SALS display at a local shopping mall.*





## SALS Needs Your Support Now More Than Ever

*The Southern Appalachian Labor School is in the midst of an extremely critical crisis. Our grants are drying up and at the same time the demands for what we do are increasing.*

In March, we completed a Strategic Plan and are pursuing "New Directions". We are submitting diverse proposals for new programs that deal with youth transformation/transition, senior/veteran housing, apartment rehabilitations, and coal camp house rehabilitations....with all work based on Energy Audits and Energy Star criteria. We are working on the affordable rehabilitations of a half dozen old houses donated to SALS.

SALS is seeking to establish the Shelter Company, a bakery, visitor tours, a news service (SALS InfoSource) and other ventures as Social Enterprises to empower and employ those who complete our training/education programs. Our After School and Summer School children's programs have had record enrollment and we are attempting to engage grandparents and parents in the learning process.

Unprecedented numbers of families are using our two food pantries at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork and the SALS Historic Oak Hill School.

The bottom line, however, is that we need your help more than ever as we move through this transitional period. Our promise is that we will continue to focus on a "hand up" not a "hand out" as we seek to create a sustainable economy for those around us in the southern coalfields of West Virginia.

### Your support can come in several different ways:

A "Friend of SALS" has pledged to match, dollar for dollar, your gifts as part of the SALS Emergency Matching Gift Fund. For every donation, we will receive double the amount.

**We can make good use of just about anything**, including: land, buildings, vehicles, building supplies, supplies for our two Community Centers, and **especially cash**. Every contribution reduces our cost of providing all the services that are so badly needed.

#### State Tax Credits can help offset your Donation:

If your donation is valued at \$500 (or more) and you pay taxes in West Virginia, you can qualify for the state tax credits allocated to SALS. **Such donors can receive both a state tax credit as well as a federal charitable contribution**, thereby helping both us and you at the same time. Contact us if you want more information. We can provide details!

Hopefully, you recognize that what we are doing is meaningful, important, empowering, and deserving of your generous support. Nobody else does what we do here and your support will help us continue to make a difference.

#### Here is how to help us help others:

Go to [www.sals.info/donate](http://www.sals.info/donate) to donate on-line through PayPal, or

**Fill out a check and send it in with the form at the end of this Newsletter. Be sure to include your e-mail address!**

*We rely on our supporters and appreciate your help, support, and involvement. Be well, do good things, and keep in touch! **For some slide shows of our activities here at SALS go to these links:***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGvX7YaT4lo&feature>

[http://apps.facebook.com/tripwow/ta-06ca-c9b4-0abb?fbo=1&st=fo\\_v\\_1387041629\\_1577978753\\_fb-pool-b](http://apps.facebook.com/tripwow/ta-06ca-c9b4-0abb?fbo=1&st=fo_v_1387041629_1577978753_fb-pool-b)

**Thank you! John David, Director**

### *Service, continued from page one*

Right now, SALS is at a cross road and needs the support of the community more than ever. Government funding and grants are getting harder to secure so SALS is turning to local government, local organizations and individuals to help sustain the organization. Please take a moment to reflect on the good acts that SALS has performed and think about what the community would do without such an organization. If you're unable to make a donation, the next best thing is to tell someone how fortunate we are to have the SALS presence in our community.

Director's Note: After sharing a decade of dedicated work with SALS, its Youth, and the communities we seek to serve, Artie plans to "pull back" into a form of retirement on January 1, 2015. I urge you to read his letter carefully and do what you think is best in your heart to help "keep hope alive".

### *Season, continued from page eight*

I have also remained the Vice Chairman of the FRN (Family Resource Network) and also Chairman for the LSIC, (Local School Improvement Council) for Collins Middle School.

Kathryn and I are gearing up to coordinate the enrollment of families in the Medicaid Expansion which began November 15, 2014 and will end February 15, 2015. When families have their taxes done for 2014 and have not enrolled in health care they will be fined \$95.00 or 1% of their income, whichever is higher. The fine will be even higher in the next tax year.

I entered our antique Buick in the Oak Leaf Festival Parade as publicity for SALS. The West Virginia Housing Development Fund and USDA assisted in giving items that would identify some of the many different programs that SALS sponsors.

As you can see we keep busy here at SALS!

## **Accent Education**

*Charlene "Red" Newkirk, Site Coordinator*

The Accent Education After School Program has been doing well. We have about 30 to 35 kids attending the program. The kids arrive at SALS on school buses and the van drivers take them home.

The kids from the Oak Hill area schools live in Kincaid, Page, and Oak Hill. The kids from the Valley schools live in Deepwater, Kimberly, Boomer, and Montgomery.

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We serve the students a snack when they get to the school and dinner before they leave. We have teachers and workers with the grandparents program to help the kids with homework.

We do crafts, cooking, science projects, and recreation activities, although we are not able to do some of the past activities because of the lack of funding.

We would like to take the kids on more educational field trips, such as to the Legislature, The Clay Center, and the Exhibition Coal Mine. The coal mine visit is always amazing for the kids since coal is an economic centerpiece in our state. Things we are looking forward to are interacting with the fire department, police department and the Art Theatre.

Donations are needed for the after school program for activities, food, and gas. We have high hopes for our program so please send donations to help us and if you have free time come and volunteer!!

## **SALS Kincaid Office News**

*by Ruth Lanham*

Our office stays quite busy these days. We have lots of reports to submit for the grant funds we now have. During the past few months we have vigorously submitted proposals to receive funds to keep SALS afloat. There are times when you spend hours and days getting these proposals ready to be submitted not knowing if they are going to be funded. We submit proposals regularly but sometimes it takes months to receive word of funding or rejection.

We are in desperate need of some good vehicles so that we can keep going with our endeavors. We could use a couple of work trucks and some cars. We have tax credits available. We keep the donated vehicles running as long as possible. But at this time they are getting extremely old and worn.

We receive phone calls daily of people who need help. It seems like the funds are less and less and the demands are more and more. These families that call are in need of food, shelter, and so many other things. There are times when families needs furnishings like their washer, stove or refrigerator goes on the blink and they have no way of buying one. I wish we could help every family who calls with a need. But our funds are limited to the point where we can't. We have been having hot dog, cake and cookie sales trying to raise money to fund some of these things like the food that people need. If you would like to donate any in way to help our communities, anything and all things are appreciated. Any good used appliances would be so helpful to some many families. God will bless you richly for your kindness. Thank you in advance for all your help not to SALS but to your community!

# Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

[www.sals.info](http://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

**Kincaid Office: voice or fax: 304-250-7627 or 304-465-9732**

**John David, Director - 304-465-9732**

**Vickie Smith, Construction : 304-640-3792, fax 469-9721**

**Artie Mullins/Kathryn South, Program Support**  
304-779-2772

**Ruth Lanham, Administrative Assistant - 304-250-7627**

Linda Dillard  
Jimmy Adkins  
Terry Black

Custodian  
YouthBuild Trainer  
YouthBuild Trainer

## AmeriCorps/VISTA

Barbara Painter	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Beth Johnson	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Daniel David	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Jamie Criser	AmeriCorps
Vickie Mullins	AmeriCorps
Latoya Ray	AmeriCorps
Keith Rice	AmeriCorps

## Board Officers

## 'Accent Education' After School Program

Helen M. Powell	Chair
Marcus Wilkes	Vice Chair
Rick Wadsworth	Secretary /Treasurer
John David*	Director <a href="mailto:jdavid@citynet.net">jdavid@citynet.net</a>

Charlene Newkirk	Site Coordinator
Tony Canada	Project Director
Wilda Salter	Foster Grandparent

## Project Staff    *\*are members of the SALS Leadership Team*

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

Kathryn South*	YouthBuild/AmeriCorps/DOL <a href="mailto:mustangkathryn@gmail.com">mustangkathryn@gmail.com</a>
Vickie Smith*	Construction Manager <a href="mailto:vsmith@citynet.net">vsmith@citynet.net</a>
Gary Zuckett*	Health/Economic/Enviro Justice <a href="mailto:garyz@sals.info">garyz@sals.info</a>
Artie Mullins*	Volunteer&Building Coordinator/ AmeriCorps <a href="mailto:artiemullins@earthlink.net">artiemullins@earthlink.net</a>
Ruth Lanham	Administrative Assistant <a href="mailto:madelinelanham@hotmail.com">madelinelanham@hotmail.com</a>
Lisa Manley	Housing - <a href="mailto:lisacmanley@hotmail.com">lisacmanley@hotmail.com</a>

LeeAnn Gore & Mary Lynn Flint

## WVU Extension Service

Lauren Weatherford, Andrea Meader  
Casandra Bandy

## Bookkeeping Team

Valarie Cowley, Ruth Lanham  
Tom Bass, Artie Mullins



**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: \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$500 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

Give on the WEB at: [www.sals.info/donate](http://www.sals.info/donate)

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SALS engages in solicitation 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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*Make a Difference Day  
2014,  
AmeriCorps Members  
including Jamie Criser,  
Casey Grubb and  
Raphael Ray, joined  
with volunteer students  
from Princeton  
University to work on  
clean up of the SALS  
Community Garden  
at our Beards Fork  
Community Center*

***We keep busy here at SALS helping those in our community.  
Your contributions help us keep busy!  
Go to [www.sals.info/donate](http://www.sals.info/donate) to donate on-line, or  
Fill out a check and send it in with the form on the other side of this page!***