

SALS JOURNAL

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Southern Appalachian Labor School*



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YouthBuild Returns to SALS **Federal Grant will Fund Program for next Three Years**



SALS new YouthBuild "Mental Toughness" graduating class with Director John David (far left) Senator Bill Laird (3rd from left) and Delegate David Perry (2nd from right in front)

In September, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded SALS funding to continue its successful YouthBuild program for the next three years. West Virginia received only two grants, the other went to the AFL-CIO's Human Resource Development Foundation in Morgantown .

YouthBuild is a non-residential, community-based alternative education program that provides classroom instruction and occupational skills training in construction and other in-demand occupations. The program serves 16-to-24 year-olds who have dropped out of high school and who have been in the justice system, are aging out of foster care, have dropped out of high school, or are otherwise at-risk of failing to reach key educational and career milestones. The grants will serve an estimated 4,800 participants around the country in the next three years.

"Success should never be determined by where a person starts in life," Secretary Perez said. "YouthBuild equips young people with the tools they need to realize their potential and the job skills they need to climb career ladders and punch their tickets to the middle class. Clos-

ing opportunity gaps for America's young people is a matter of basic fairness and critical to our ability to compete in the global economy."

Today's announcement marks the first round of YouthBuild grants awarded under the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The law, which became effective on July 1, 2015, led to several changes to YouthBuild. These changes include putting greater focus on improving the quality and energy efficiency of buildings serving low-income and homeless individuals and families; expanding eligibility to include youth who have dropped out of high school but subsequently reenrolled; and more.

John David, Director of SALS, said the collaboration for our successful YouthBuild application was unprecedented and many deserve sincere appreciation for their cooperation in shaping a successful proposal. He noted the program will "make a difference" for a new direction in life for young adults in the coalfields of southern West Virginia.

Should Federal EITC Reward Work Permanently?

By Gary Zuckett, Reprinted from Charleston Gazette/Mail, December 1, 2015

There has been coverage in the media lately on the activities of the new coalition promoting the creation of a state EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) but not as much attention to the federal EITC and Child Tax Credits (CTC), major portions of which are set to expire in 2017 unless Congress acts to save them.

The Economic Policy Institute says the federal Earned Income Tax Credit was first proposed in the early 1970s, and was finally signed into law by President Ford. It was later substantially expanded by President Reagan, who deemed it “the best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress.”

Next to Social Security, the federal EITC and the Child Tax Credit make up the nation’s most powerful anti-poverty program. In 2012, they lifted 10.1 million people in low-income families out of poverty, including 5.3 million children according to the West Virginia Center on Budget & Policy. The Center also points out that same year, 160,000 West Virginia households received the EITC and 95,000 received the low-income part of the CTC. The EITC put about \$341 million back into West Virginia’s economy, while helping low-income working families make ends meet.

The EITC is a hand up, not a hand out. It rewards work with a refundable tax credit that many use as a down payment on a more reliable vehicle to get to work, pay off credit cards, make home improvements, replace worn out appliances, you name it. These checks are immediately spent into local economies which keeps keep them more robust and productive.

However, there is much concern that, in the slash and burn mentality that seems to prevail at this point in Washington, these powerful anti-poverty programs may come under attack. At the same time there is a movement among family advocates nationwide to press for making these beneficial tax credits a permanent part of our national policy. They point out that every year Congress renews scores of tax breaks for big business (nicknamed ‘tax extenders’) and now there is movement to make many of these annual tax cuts permanent. All this is proposed without applying the “payfor” (as in what shall we cut to “pay for” this) yardstick that is always applied to policies targeting children and families struggling to make ends meet.

Family advocates argue that, if Congress is indeed

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wading into another round of approvals for business “tax extenders” that they should, at the same time, move to make the EITC and CTC a permanent part of our tax code. I concur. These bi-partisan policies have proven their worth, and now is the time to make them a permanent fixture.

Business is always arguing for the “certainty” they need in federal rules and taxes in order to plan for future expansion and make business plans. Certainty is also needed by low-income working families that the regular “hand up” of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit will be there for them to plan for making ends meet.

Editors Note: As part of December’s budget deal, both the EITC and the Child Tax Credits were made a permanent part of our tax policy! This will now give greater economic certainty to the 160,000 working West Virginia families who annually make good use of this bootstrap policy. The next step is to enact a WV EITC to make our state’s income tax more progressive. For more info see: <http://investinwvfamilies.org/>

Does your family qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit?

Every year, millions of dollars of EITC refunds are lost by families who qualify but don’t file the form with their tax return.

See: <https://www.irs.gov/Credits-&-Deductions/Individuals/Earned-Income-Tax-Credit>

The SALS Journal is published by the Southern Appalachian Labor School, a grassroots organization dedicated to social & environmental justice and workers rights.

We welcome articles and submissions by our readers.

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Director's Report

by John David

The season brings a mix of both bad and good news.

We are saddened by the untimely death of Kenny Price, a SALS YouthBuild VISTA who had been with SALS in several prior capacities. Kenny was a gentle person with an addictive aura of graciousness who was well liked and highly appreciated. We also lost Don Floyd, the father of Kathryn South. Don was a kind, thoughtful, and loyal UMWA retired coal miner who was a very special friend to the SALS Family. His other daughter, Jackie Asbury, was also with SALS until she passed over a decade ago.

The good news is that SALS is back with YouthBuild for 62 young adults. The first training class for a cohort was conducted in early December and another cohort group is being assembled. Only two YouthBuild grants were funded in the state.

The new YouthBuild Academy Program is off to a solid start with 18 candidates completing a week of "Mental Toughness". On the final day of the probationary training component, Senator Bill Laird and Delegate David Perry came to offer the youth words of encouragement and Fayette County Clerk Kelvin Holliday came to register the youth to vote. Also speaking was Dan Conant from Solar Holler, who discussed the arrangement for solar certification, and Chuck Taylor/Denny Dodson from the WV Division of Juvenile Services, who discussed YouthBuild collaboration as well as the new Youth Reporting Center at the SALS Historic Oak Hill School.

SALS was also funded for several other familiar programs, including AmeriCorps, Stream Monitoring, Accent Education, and USDA Housing.

There were several new thrusts. One was a stand-alone VISTA program with seven VISTA slots. They will be assigned to work on Food In Place, Volunteers In Place, Media In Place, and Veterans In Place programs. To date, Brenda Warrick, William Austin, and Kenna Bass are on-board. Another new thrust is a POWER PLUS planning grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to explore the feasibility of solar farms on closed mountain top coal mines, as part of a worker training program. Finally, SALS has

been added as a member of the United Way of Southern West Virginia and remains a proud member of Community Works and Fahe.

We are grateful for the services of two new partners. Daily, we now have a crew from the Day Report Center and a crew from the Mt. Olive Correctional Center on Saturdays. Their help with our housing projects is greatly appreciated!

With considerable help from special friends, SALS Mountain Radio is about ready to go on the air at 106.5 FM (W-A-G-E). The antenna on top of the Historic Oak Hill School is now in place and an equipped studio has been set up to WAGE the fight for humane priorities.

In Gauley Bridge, SALS has completed 24 beautiful apartments and continues to work on two donated homes. Work on similar homes is also underway in Boomer, Oak Hill, and Montgomery. Vickie Smith has obtained additional certifications in more housing areas such as foreclosure counseling as families struggle to both keep and maintain their homes.

While activities are on an upswing, public expectations have also increased due to the crisis in the coal economy. As a result, your help is critically needed more than ever.

One way to help is to return the coupon in this newsletter. Another way for those in West Virginia is through our tax credit program. Tax credits are available for those who share the spirit of giving by supporting one of Southern Appalachian Labor School's housing, youth, education or health programs. See Tax Credit article on page six.

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Mary Lynn Flint, Director of Adult Education at Fayette County Schools speaking to the SALS YouthBuild Mental Toughness class about educational services.

A New Start

by Vickie Mullins

As reported in our last newsletter, the SALS family has suffered a great loss: our Chair-Person, Ms. Helen M. Powell, passed away. Ms. Powell was a great woman, good friend, wonderful mother, and highly respected by everyone that came across her path. She always encouraged us to keep up the good work for the families in Fayette County. As we move forward, our programs such as our After School "Accent Education" program must continue to teach children to dream big, stay positive, strive for achievement and obtain more education because when they graduate from high school, it is time to experience the real world! SALS is a place where many of them will become more clear about their life goals.

We at SALS believe that our time with these children has made a positive change in their lives. We need to continue the relationship with them and their family by providing them with all the resources needed to make their journey a learning experience that they will remember for a life time.

Parents need to get involved in the life of their children and their education-school life by showing them they care by going to the school, talking with the teachers, going to the activities the children participate in, and helping them make good choices that will carry them through adulthood. We will continue to be a good role model for them at SALS by listening to them once they open the door, sit down for a family-style meal, discuss the experience they had for the day. We are always concerned about what they learned new at school any day.

I feel children need someone who will stand for them in good choices and bad ones! They will experience both. As adults and counselors, we play a important role in their lives. We must stay in front and always be positive, never straddling the fence. These memories will stick with them as they become adults.

Round-Up Up-Date

by Kathryn South

Since the last newsletter went out in the summer, we have had some new developments with new grants, such as the YouthBuild grant. We are trying to recruit 40 youth to start this grant. We are asking everyone who has any connections with churches, schools, or youth programs to help out with this recruitment. We have been a part of the national YouthBuild USA program since 1998.

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We have not always obtained a grant to pay our youth to do the construction piece of our program, but we try to keep the work going for all the folks who need the services of assistance with home repairs and purchasing new homes.

The summer Energy Express program ended the last week of July. We had good attendance during the six-week reading and feeding program. We had lots of volunteers this year. One group was a large church group that stayed in our dorm for two weeks and helped out each day. The volunteers read to the children and played with them during their fun time. The meals that were served were healthy and met the guidelines for a healthy diet. We served food to children at seven sites this summer. Over 700 meals were served in Montgomery and Oak Hill areas. This was a great service to the children of the county to try to make a difference in making sure that the children got a meal each day for six weeks.

This has been a very sad summer for me personally. My father passed away in August after a yearlong battle with cancer. He participated in many activities over the years that SALS sponsored. He worked over 40 years in the coal mines and served in WWII and was a minister for over forty years. We all miss him dearly.

We have had about six teams from Global Volunteers to visit this year. The Global Volunteers have been assisting with programs for over fifteen years and we had 99 teams to come to West Virginia. With the new Youth-Build grant starting up soon, we hope to bring many more volunteers to work alongside our youth to mentor and befriend them and give them a sense of what "volunteering" means.

Construction, Housing and Home Rent

by Vickie Smith

SALS's new endeavor is the Home Rent project at the Regina Three Rivers complex in Gauley Bridge. We borrowed a large amount of money to completely renovate 24 units of a former USDA complex. We are months out from completion of the entire project. The project defiantly has tons of regulations and paper work. We are currently working with the 5 tenants that have lived there for years to get them qualified for their units. I am hoping to get these done in the next several weeks. We are also gathering new applications for the other units. These units are beautiful and will give many a safe decent place to call home.

We are also starting up our new YouthBuild project.

This is a three year project that encompasses 50 percent education, 10 percent community service, and 40 percent site and hands on education. We are using PAC certifications and a new culinary arts program is planned. The on-site education will be all aspects of house construction. These young people will receive educational awards when they successfully complete their YouthBuild program. We are looking for 62 young men and women to fill these slots and make a life-changing move in a new direction.

Construction sites are very hectic in the past year. We have three staff and several young men on the sites. These sites consist of building a new home in Oak Hill, rehabilitation of 8 plus homes in Fayette County, and taking care of 31 rental units when items need repaired. We have been mowing 10 properties in Fayette County. We have picked up many donations from various agencies which help stretch our budget. We have also renovated the former kindergarten building behind the Historic Oak Hill School. It will soon have new life.

I have held several housing counseling sessions for our agency as well as other local agencies. This has enabled several families to become home owners in our state. It is very informative for the prospective clients. Lisa Manley has assisted me with these classes this past year.



Gauley Bridge Mayor Jonathan Grose and Vickie Smith inspecting the Regina Three Rivers Apartments in Gauley Bridge

Back Again

by LaToya Ray

I drove the shuttle this summer for Energy Express and enjoyed being with the kids...this was my highlight of the year!!! A summer group came in and we went to Randy and Linda Blacks house to extract honey. We had a blast!! Then I made the decision to renew, or sign another year with AmeriCorps YouthBuild which is overwhelming with me being the afterschool teacher, taking care of the farm, and writing grants!!!

Hello SALS!

Kenna Bass, VISTA

I am really excited to be involved with the Southern Appalachian Labor School. Having just experienced the AmeriCorps/VISTA PSO training, I can't wait to get started. I've learned so much in a short amount of time and I am looking forward to learning more. One of my areas of focus will be to get the kids excited about growing thier own garden food and thinking about where thier food comes from. I feel really passionate about making a difference in my community I've been volunteering with SALS for some time now and I'm happy with my own personal fulfillments from helping with the community.

New to SALS!

by Brenda Warrick, VISTA

This week is my first week working with SALS and AmeriCorps VISTA. We began in Orlando, Florida for training and it was a great experience. AmeriCorps VISTA was wonderful to all of us. We met and trained with 163 new VISTA members and formed bonds with others who want to see less poverty and more opportunity.

As for my first task, I will be working with the new up and coming SALS radio station located at our Historic Oak Hill School. Basically I will be planning interviews with area leaders...and trying to get some more time and training in understanding operating the new station...a big thank you to Tom Syner for encouraging us with this wonderful opportunity. Hopefully, with the new station call letters WAGE, we will be able to reach a broader audience in our area. Looking forward to great changes.

Kids Lives Matter!

by Charlene Newkirk

The After School Accent Education Program in Beards Fork began on September 14th. This is an educational program funded through SALS, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Fayette County Commission, City of Montgomery and many other generous contributors. Again this year, students at all grade levels are attending four days of After School which includes homework help, wellness activities, recreation, special events, snacks, and dinner. Assistance is offered in the following classes; basic skills, fine arts, dance, and technology. The program begins when the buses arrive and kids report to the cafeteria for a snack. Activities continue until we serve a full hot meal for the kids dinner.

Students from New River Elementary, Collins Middle School, Oak Hill High School, Valley Elementary, and Valley Middle/High School attend the program. Our two vans take the kids home after dinner. We have a Grandparents and AmeriCorps program that allow people to come and help tutor and interact with the kids. We also have people from the community volunteer with the kids. For the Lights on Afterschool Program we lit candles for cancer awareness, domestic violence, hope, and fire fighters.

This fall people from the community came together to raise money for the After School kids to go on trips. We decided to hold a Halloween carnival for the kids. The Halloween carnival was a success. We had games, food, and a haunted house. We sold tickets for the games and haunted house for only 25 cents. The kids really enjoyed themselves and they won lots of prizes! We plan to take the kids on a field trip soon with the money we raised. Hopefully we will continue to raise money for field trips because we believe that will keep the attendance of the program high and give the kids something to look forward to. If anyone would like to send donations to help please send the donation to SALS with a field trip note attached and the kids will send you a thank you card. Address: P. O. Box 127, Kincaid, WV 25119.

Greetings from a New VISTA

by William Austin

My name is William (Billy) Austin and I am one of the new VISTAS for the SALS Community Center located in Beards Fork. My focus areas are Healthy Futures and Economic Opportunities. I've recently traveled to Orlando, Florida to attend Pre-Service Orientation. I am new to VISTA but not to SALS. I've been volunteering at

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Children in the SALS AfterSchool "Accent Education" program at SALS Community Center in Beards Fork, pose with Santa (Tom Painter)

the Community Center for the past 8 years with different programs such as the Summer Food Program, Energy Express, and the After School "Accent Education" Program.

I am honored to serve in the community which I live and look forward to meeting you and gaining ideas, tips, assistance, and developing strong bonds with members of the community. I'd like to thank those who are serving and have served over the years. I hope to add to the success of the many programs SALS has to offer.

Tax Credits Available for Donations of Goods and Cash to SALS and its Programs

The Southern Appalachian Labor School has been certified for participation in the 2015-2016 Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP). SALS' has been awarded \$50,000 in West Virginia tax credits to be shared with donors. Credits can be awarded for donated real estate, building materials, school and office supplies, equipment, vehicles, stock and cash with a minimum value of \$500. Credits are available until June 30, 2016. However, credits given prior to December 31, 2015 may be used on WV taxes due for the current year.

If you wish to give and obtain a tax credit in return,

consider obtaining a tax credit for giving to one of the housing, youth, education or health programs sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS).

NIP, administered by the West Virginia Development Office, was established to increase the rate of charitable giving to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in West Virginia. In return for donating cash, personal property, real estate or stock, a business or individual donor can receive a state tax credit worth up to 50 percent of the donation. Credits come off your West Virginia tax return's bottom line, thereby reducing your taxes due or providing you with a larger refund. You may also deduct the donation from your federal return as a charitable contribution if you itemize deductions. Some in-kind professional services are also eligible contributions.

For more information on donating or volunteering for any SALS program, including New River Safe Housing, Coalfield Housing, The Historic Oak Hill School or the youth programs at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork, call John David at 304-250-7627; write to SALS, P. O. Box 127, Kincaid, WV 25119; or email sals@citynet.net

Moving Up To AmeriCorps

by Barbara Painter

This has been an interesting time for me and also a learning transition.

The fall started with the Oak Leaf Festival Parade, something that we do yearly to just get the word out about what great programs SALS hosts and also how many families are impacted in our communities by our services. Not all information fits on the van; it would take a Greyhound bus to hold signs showing all that SALS offers!!

The monthly Food Pantry in the Historic Oak Hill School continues to serve those that are hungry in the area. At the end of November, our records show that we have assisted more than 400 families within the area. That is a lot in an area this size. Most of the time, you think of countries overseas that have people starving. However, it is happening right here in the United States. As you think about giving this Holiday Season think about making donations to SALS, whether non perishable food items, money or anything usable. We accept anything that is usable. Pickup can be arranged.

Three of us involved with the Experience Works Program attended a 9 week training session and were certified in different employable areas such as Customer Service, Senior Administrative Assistant and several other areas. Our graduation day was September 15th.

We also hosted a "Haunted" School House during the month of October. Some coming through said it was the best they had seen this year. We also sold concessions. Tacos in a bag are the big thing now!

I also attended a YouthBuild training in Washington, DC. It was very interesting and contained a wealth of information. It was a fact-packed two days.

I have begun assisting Artie with the AmeriCorp program, which is a learning process in itself.

We are busy here at the Historic Oak Hill School planning many events. Keep an eye on our Facebook pages to learn about them and come out when you can to join us.

Purple Heart Veteran Gets New Access Ramps

Volunteer West Virginia, the Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS), and other community volunteers worked together to construct three ramp areas for Lawrence and Evelyn Wood in Oak Hill. Lawrence is a 92 year old veteran of WWII who was awarded the Purple Heart for his service.

SALS Director John David was approached about the need for a ramp at the Wood's home by John Kincaid, Lawrence's neighbor. John Kincaid has family roots in Kincaid and knew that Lawrence grew up in Page, an area that SALS is well known. SALS contacted Waylon Bryant at Volunteer WV, who provided funds for SALS to obtain materials. Volunteer builders were then recruited.

The ramps consist of a main ramp to the house, a smaller ramp to the car-port, and one on a step on the front walk to the street.

Those with SALS who assisted were Vickie Smith, SALS Construction Manager, and Lisa Manley, SALS Housing Manager. Other volunteers consisted of John Kincaid, James Nutter, and Matt Menviola.

Depicted in the picture below are, from left to right, John Kincaid, Lawrence Wood, and Evelyn Wood.



'Right to work' unfair to workers, lead to lower pay

by John David, reprinted from Charleston Gazette, 2-9-15

This is not the first time that the West Virginia Legislature will consider so-called "right to work" legislation. It has always been rejected for four basic reasons. It does not mean that every worker has the right to a job and to receive work at fair wages, reasonable hours, and under decent labor standards. It does not mean that every worker has a right to secure employment with proper provisions for paid vacations and insurance safeguards against sickness and old age. It does not mean that every worker is protected against arbitrary discharge. It does not mean to strengthen the individual worker's bargaining position through a union of choice.

Historically, the "right to work" movement had its roots in extreme pro-segregationist and red-baiting elements in the 1940's South. According to the Institute of Southern Studies, Vance Muse founded the Christian American Association in 1936 with backup from Southern oil companies and Northern industrialists, including Fred Koch, who founded the John Birch Society and was the father of the conservative Koch Brothers who currently are funneling funds to change the national political landscape to their way of thinking.

Dartmouth sociologist Marc Dixon notes that the Christian American Association was the first in the nation to champion right to work as a full-blown political slogan, in addition to opposing women's suffrage, child labor-laws, integration, and the economic changes of Roosevelt's New Deal.

There are several issues with "right to work" legislation. First, "right to work" laws are a violation of the letter and spirit of the Constitution, which delegated to the federal government the power to regulate commerce. In this context, both the Wagner Act and the U.S. Supreme Court consistently ruled that States may not adopt their own codes of labor relations.

In 1947, Congress carved out and overrode President Truman's veto one exception in Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act that permitted states to outlaw voluntary discussion of certain union security clauses during collective bargaining negotiations.

Under federal law, contract negotiations are divided into three categories, namely what must be discussed (wages, laws, and working conditions), what may be discussed (fringe benefits/services and union shop security clauses), and what may not be discussed (activities that violate other statutes). In essence, right to work legislation



"Right to Work is Wrong" says a banner at the United Mineworkers Labor Day picnic in Racine WV

gags voluntary discussion of certain union shop security clauses and moves the topic from "may be voluntarily discussed" to "may not be discussed".

To be more clear, the term "union shop" specifically refers to one of a number of different types of union security clauses. A "union shop" clause is a permitted but not mandated bargaining item. A "union shop" security clause may or may not be negotiated in a collective bargaining agreement. A "union shop" security clause, which specifically states that after a period of time all employees in the bargaining unit selected by the majority must become union members, cannot be legally negotiated in right-to-work states. The clause, however, is permissible under federal law and can be negotiated in all other states, such as currently in West Virginia, if both parties agree to it. However, since the clause is not a mandatory bargaining item, either side can request that the item be removed from the bargaining table during negotiations.

"Right to work" laws are undemocratic. Under the Wagner Act and provisions of the National Labor Relations Board, a union cannot be legally recognized as the bargaining agent unless it obtains 50 percent plus 1 vote of those deemed eligible to participate in a NLRB supervised election. If recognized, the union had to represent all the employees, even those opposed. Thus, "right to work" laws aren't fair to dues-paying members since non-union employees obtain a "free ride" to the benefits negotiated by the union. If a worker who is represented by a union and doesn't pay dues is fired illegally, the union must use its time and money to defend him or her, even if that requires going through a costly, time-consuming legal process. Since the union represents everyone, everyone benefits, so everyone should share in the costs of provid-

ing these services. The same is true for negotiated wages, hours, and working conditions, which must apply to both those who voted for and against union representation. Nonmembers who are represented by a union can even sue the union if they think it has not represented them fairly.

Recently, the nation had a federal holiday in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. For many, it was a “Day On, not a Day Off” to do community service and reflect on King’s messages that dealt with many topics, including fairness, respect, and the fight for social and economic justice. As a civil rights leader, he spoke out against “right to work laws”, stating:

“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as “right to work”. It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone. Wherever these laws have been passed wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights.”

There is no question that West Virginia needs jobs and economic revitalization. But we must work together in this effort as well as in concert with federal trade policies to insure that we succeed without division and without squeezing those who have little to give more.

John David, a retired professor and director of the Southern Appalachian Labor School, is a Gazette contributing columnist.

More Housing News

by Lisa Manley

This has certainly been a very busy time at SALS.

We have 7 REHABS finished and we are getting ready to start on number 8. With the cuts in our funding we can’t do everything the houses need. But at least we can put on a new roof and get the homeowners some heat. We have so many applications and I wish we could do them all. We get a lot of calls for emergency work, wiring, heat, leaking roofs, wheelchair ramps but there is not enough money to help everybody. That is why donations are so important.

I am also working with the Emergency Food Shelter Program EFSP. With the money from them I can help with utility bills and buy food for the food pantry. But even that is limited. So we are always taking donations for the food

pantry. It is located in Beards Fork and food is distributed once a month to families in the community.

We have a contract on a house in Oak Hill. This house was donated and SALS completely rehabbed it. It is beautiful. A very nice senior citizen who is currently living in an apartment with a broken hot water heater is going to get this 2 bedroom 1 bath home in a nice neighborhood. This is one of the things that makes this job worthwhile.

It is also time to prepare for Group Workcamp. The volunteers will be here in July and we are already taking applications and trying to get a jump start on getting home repairs for 30 – 40 residents in the Upper Kanawha Valley.

Finally, we received a mini – grant which was used to build a ramp for a World War II veteran who is 92 years old and the recipient of a purple heart. At least we could give back in some small way to thank him his service.



Denny Dodson, Deputy Director of the WV Division of Juvenile Services and staff, discussing the new Youth Report Center with State Senator Bill Laird, State Delegate David Perry, and SALS Construction Manager/Counselor Vickie Smith inside the renovated facility on the campus of the SALS Historic Oak Hill School.

New Juvenile Facility Opens at SALS

The WV Division of Juvenile Services has opened a new Youth Report Center on the campus of the SALS Historic Oak Hill School. The facility, which will be professionally staffed and serve Fayette and Nicholas Counties, will work with juveniles age 18 and under on a daily or

Continued on next page

Juvenile Facility, continued

weekly basis, as ordered by the court. Deputy Director Denny Dodson, who with his staff visited the renovated facility on Friday, December 4, said the program will be a giant step for the area and foresees a valuable partnership with the SALS YouthBuild program, since it provides TASC services, construction competencies with credentials, and AmeriCorps Educational Awards for further education/training. He expects the program will be fully operational by the beginning of 2016.

Director's Report, continued from page three

SALS has been awarded \$50,000 in tax credits to give to donors through the 2015-2016 Neighborhood Investment Program, which is administered through the West Virginia Development Office.

Credits can be awarded for donated property, building materials, school and office supplies, equipment, vehicles, stock and cash with minimum value of \$500.

Credits are available until June 30, 2015; however, credits given prior to December 31 may be used on your taxes due for the current year.

Over the next nine months, SALS will be competing in the new "Saving Energy for Posterity" competition offered by our electric utility, AEP, to encourage homeowners to take advantage of their free home energy efficiency audits. SALS will receive a \$10 credit toward energy upgrades on one of its buildings for every supporter who signs up for the free audit. A \$10,000 grand prize is awarded to the group that has the most home audits. If you live in the WV AEP service area and want to help us win this much needed efficiency upgrade contact us.

Each year, SALS files a report with the WV Secretary of State as a charitable organization. This year, as well as other years, SALS leads the state with less than a half of one percent used for fund-raising. This insures that your contribution goes directly toward serving human needs instead of funding expensive fund-raising campaigns and high dollar executives.

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.

SALS Kincaid Office News

by Ruth Lanham

Our office is very saddened by the sudden passing of Kenny Price, a SALS VISTA who had been with SALS for several years. We express our sincere sorrow to his family. The SALS family will miss him tremendously.

Our office is right now in the peak season of writing and submitting grants. We received our YouthBuild grant that is getting geared up to start. We are in need of some applicants from the ages of 16-24 high school drop outs who can earn a stipend and receive construction skills with GED education. We submitted several grants this month for endeavors to continue our work on low income housing for low income families.

The office stays busy with endless hours of trying to keep funds coming in so we can continue the work that we do. We submit reports weekly for the grants we have now. All funds are dependent upon these reports.

We have had a very busy season trying to keep up with everything. The food bank has been going very well. We are serving several families in the area. If you would like to donate to the food bank we would welcome all donations or contributions.

We are still in desperate need of some good vehicles so that we can keep everything going. We could use a couple of work trucks and some cars. We have tax credits available at this time. The vehicle fleet we have at this time is getting very worn and old with extremely high mileage.

Our office receives phone calls and walk-ins daily with needs such as food. There are times when families need furnishings such as a washer, stove, dryer, or refrigerator. Theirs has quit working and they have no funds to purchase these items. I would like to be able to help every phone call and walk-in but we are not able to do so.

If you would like to donate in any way to help our communities anything and all things would be appreciated. Any used appliances would be great.

If you would like to donate to SALS you can call our office at 304.250.7627 or drop it by our office on Route 61. Thank you in advance for your kindness to your community. God will bless you richly for your kindness.

Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

SALS Community Center in Beards Fork

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

www.SALS.info

www.ConstructingChangeAndBridgingGaps.com

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

Ruth Lanham, Admin. Assistant - 304-250-7627

Board Officers

Marcus Wilkes	Interim Chair
Rick Wadsworth	Treasurer
John David*	Director jdavid@citynet.net
Barbara Painter	Secretary

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

Kathryn South*	Program Support mustangkathryn@gmail.com
Vickie Smith*	Construction Manager vsmith@citynet.net
Gary Zuckett*	Health/Economic/Enviro Justice garyz@sals.info
Artie Mullins*	Community Center (reduced time) artiemullins@earthlink.net
Ruth Lanham	Administrative Assistant madelinelanham@hotmail.com
Lisa Manley	Housing - lisacmanley@hotmail.com

Project Staff continued:

Barbara Painter	AmeriCorps/Green Coordinator
Linda Dillard	Custodian
Jimmy Adkins	YouthBuild Trainer
Terry Black	YouthBuild Trainer

AmeriCorps/VISTA

Daniel David	AmeriCorps/VISTA
Vickie Mullins	Americorps
James Harvey	Americorps
Tyler Atkins	Americorps
Latoya Ray	AmeriCorps
William Austin	VISTA
Kenna Bass	VISTA
Brenda Warrick	VISTA

'Accent Education' After School Program

Charlene Newkirk	Site Coordinator
Wilda Salter	Foster Grandparent

WVU Extension Service

Lauren Weatherford, Andrea Meader
Casandra Bandy

Bookkeeping Team

Valarie Cowley, Ruth Lanham
Tom Bass, Artie Mullins

Special Events

Joe Mario



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\$

Please send me a thank you gift.. \$50 + Donors will receive a hand-crafted pottery mug.

Give on the WEB at: www.sals.info/donate

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

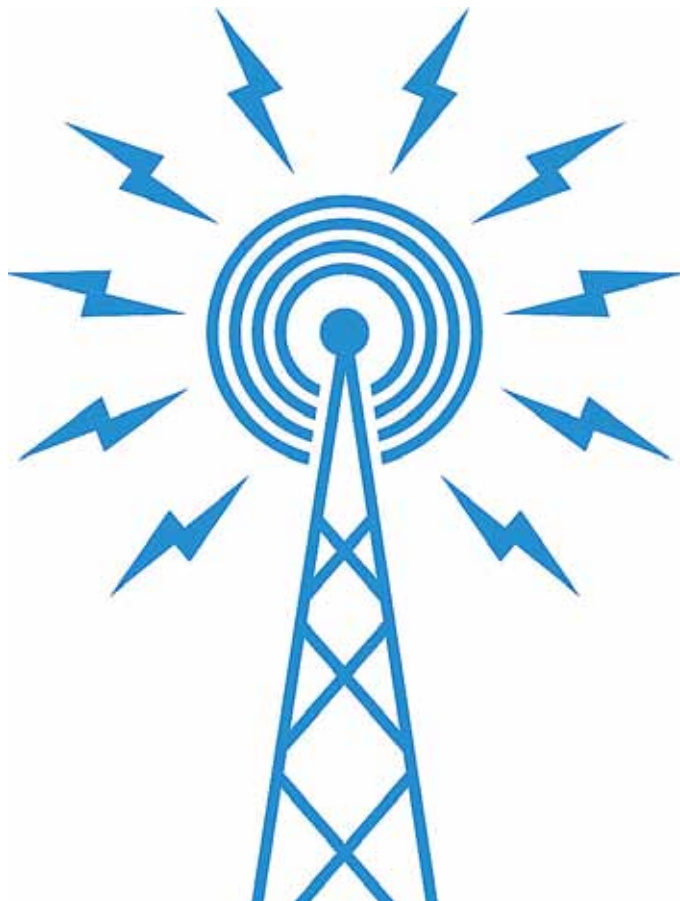
SALS engages in solicitation to support the Southern Appalachian Labor School. WV residents may obtain a summary of our registration and financial documents from the Sec. of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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***Committed to WAGE the Fight
for a Living Wage and
other Humane Priorities***

***We keep busy here at SALS helping
those in our community.***

Your contributions help us keep busy!

***Go to 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!***