

SALS JOURNAL

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Summer 2016

25th SALS Solidarity Festival in July Features Premiere of “After Coal”

The 25th Annual Southern Appalachian Labor School Solidarity Cultural Festival is being held at the Historic Oak Hill School on July 12th. This year features a Dinner and Premiere Film showing of the documentary “After Coal” at 5:30 p.m.

“After Coal” profiles inspiring individuals who are building a new future in both the Appalachian coalfields and South Wales. Music plays a major role in this documentary essay, produced at Appalachian State University by faculty/film maker Tom Hansell formerly with Appalshop in Whitesburg, Kentucky. The film has fiscal sponsorship from the Southern Appalachian Labor School, WV Humanities Council, and United Artists, among others.

The roots of this film go back several decades to when Appalachian scholar Helen Lewis, SALS co-founder David Greene, and others went to Wales when coal mines there were being shuttered. In essence, the riveting film now returns to SALS Journal



Wales to view the aftermath in the context of the current situation that is unfolding in the Appalachian coalfields. “After Coal” has already been nominated for several international awards.

The Dinner and Film tickets are \$25 at the door, by mail, or on line. Tickets for Unemployed Coal Mining Family Members and Students are \$15. Scholarships are available and SALS is soliciting donors for the scholarship fund. The event will also feature an auction, raffle, sale of hand-made WV pottery, and a used book sale.

Right-to-Work Pushers Don't Ask Right Questions

by John P. David

reprinted from the Charleston Gazette/Mail - April 14, 2016

Robotically, people are making the false claim that so-called right-to-work legislation will attract jobs. If anything is a false claim, this is it. It was, in fact, a straw man's argument to wrongly infer that unless so-called right-to-work passed, job creation and economic development cannot occur.

The facts are crystal clear. Any employer that opposes workplace democracy and does not want to discuss a union security clause can legally refuse to discuss it. This option is the case in non-right-to-work states right now and has been the case in West Virginia. No so-called right-to-work legislation is needed if any employer is adamant on this issue.

Thus, paraphrasing Sen. Joe Manchin, all the claims that so-called right-to-work is one of the things employees look for when they are deciding to build factories or add jobs is pure nonsense.

If people are honestly interested in creating a location to attract prospective employers, they need to reflect on the other legislation that was being pushed by the same forces that championed so-called right-to-work.

Realistically, businesses are not coming if West Virginia is the Wild West, where somebody without training or a permit can carry an open or concealed weapon.

Businesses are not coming to West Virginia if zealots in any work-related capacity have the legal right to discriminate against people they do not like.

Businesses are not coming to West Virginia if educational standards are determined by a political playbook.

What was entailed was a hidden political agenda, not only in West Virginia but in many other states. Using the argument of job creation and economic development, the combination of several legislative items that were under consideration do considerable harm and will deter economic growth from external sources.

This is because the legislation is derived by a political agenda advocated by David and Charles Koch and others who are disciples of the John Birch Society and similar extremist organizations that oppose wealth redistribution, economic interventionism, civil rights, the United

SALS Journal



Nations, the Federal Reserve and any pieces of legislation designed to create fairness and a level playing field.

In other words, the agenda is designed to favor and protect members of an elite, extremely wealthy minority who seek to control the economy and maintain their privileged lifestyle.

If the Legislature is legitimately focused on economic development, it would insist on peer-reviewed studies of the economic impact of every item in the extremist political agenda. The study should include a cost-benefit analysis that focuses on job creation and economic development.

The question to be asked is whether a proposed piece of legislation attracts or discourages economic activity. It is not honest to misuse alleged relevance for the purpose of advancing the political agenda of an outside group at the expense of providing meaningful economic change and diversity to an economy that must face transition in order to survive.

John P. David, an emeritus economics professor at WVU-Tech and director of the Southern Appalachian Labor School, is a Gazette contributing columnist.

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 P. David

The year is bringing to SALS several interesting developments. The YouthBuild program has completed three cohort classes of "Mental Toughness", which is the grant term for an orientation period. Currently, there are about 20 young adults enrolled and we seek 40 more. Two have already completed their GED/TASC work: Sam Slater and Isiah Bess. Two went to Washington, D.C. for the Young Leader's Conference: Jonathan Swafford and Joseph Shongo. A Youth Council has been formed and a new MOU with the New River Health Association was signed for health/dental services. Congratulations to all!

The SALS VISTA program is in full swing with 7 VISTAs. Billy Austin and Kenna Bass are in Beards Fork dealing with agricultural and youth; Erica and Jesse Smith are in Kincaid/Oak Hill dealing with veteran/ housing issues, and Brenda Warrick/Ed Warfield/Eric Keith are at the SALS Historic Oak Hill School dealing with social media and SALS Mountain Radio W-A-G-E 106.5 FM.

The State of West Virginia has leased part of the Historic Oak Hill School for a Youth Report Center, which promises to tie into the YouthBuild program.

Several public events occurred or are scheduled at the Historic Oak Hill School. June 25 was the massive cancer benefit for Vickie Smith and Paula Bailey, who are combating cancer. On July 12, SALS will premiere "After Coal", the documentary based on dealing with economic transition in Wales and Appalachia produced by Tom Hansell at Appalachian State University with support from SALS and the WV Humanities Council. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also during 2016, SALS hosted many volunteer group from several universities and faith-based organization. In July, 140 are coming from Christian Endeavor and 440 from Group Workcamps/Cares. Global Volunteers are also returning later in the Summer and Fall.

SALS is pushing in several new directions, primarily in agricultural and solar, as a result of the POWER grant initiative which provides funds to create economic activity in place of coal. Other projects are on schedule, including the completion of Regina Three River Apartments in Gauley Bridge, rehabilitation of several new and homes, weatherization of numerous homes, Energy Express, and the "Accent Education" After-School program. SALS was awarded a "Self-Help" grant from USDA to develop a new thrust in helping home owners help themselves.

We are pleased the Greater Kanawhwa Valley Foundation has renewed support for our summer and



Students from the University of Connecticut volunteering in Oak Hill. SALS hosted over 50 students from their university recently. They stayed at the Historic Oak Hill School and helped SALS Housing projects in Montgomery, Oak Hill, and Gauley Bridge. A big Thank you from us all!

afterschool programs, as well as for the summer Feed/Read program.

SALS Board Chair Marcus Wilkes (and first participant in our University Year in Action project as well as graduate of our Public Service Administration B.S. program at WVUTech) was re-elected as Mayor of Northfork in McDowell County.

Former SALS staff member (and author of the book of poems "Mucked" published by SALS) Bob Henry Baber was elected as Mayor of Richwood in Nicholas County.

We regret to share the news that Artie Mullins' mother passed away after experiencing a long period of declining health. She was also the mother-in-law of Vickie Mullins, who also lost her uncle in Ohio at about the same time.

We were also sad that John Taylor passed. John was a lawyer who championed miners in their struggle for Black Lung benefits and spent many years serving as the attorney for District 17 of the UMWA. In regard to SALS, he prepared and signed our initial incorporation papers in 1981 after our separation from WV Tech and was highly regarded as a leader in the fight for social justice and humane priorities.

As said before, funds are drying up and costs are rising. For us to continue being a Force for Good, we need your strong and loyal support. With your help, we will continue the fight for economic and social justice for families in the coalfields who are suffering in a major way by the loss of jobs and hope.

Housing News - Group WorkCamps to Repair 38 Homes

Lisa Manley

Well there is a lot to share. We have been so busy in the SALS housing programs.

We are working on the last three REHABs of the ten for the FHLB grant. It gives you a good feeling to know that you have in some way impacted the lives of ten families. Everyone that has worked on these homes deserves a pat on the back. I know the families appreciate the time and effort that went into the rehabilitation of their homes. Each of the families got a new roof plus some additional work on their homes as needed.

Group Workcamp is again making a big difference in the Upper Kanawha Valley and Fayette County. Thanks to the effort of Group Cares and of course SALS and with the help of Debby Campbell with EnACT, Mayor Wayne Armstrong of Glasgow, and the principal and some staff from the Cedar Grove Elementary School, and two of SALS VISTAs Eric Keith and Jesse Smith, this year is going to be one of the best. There are approximately 400 volunteers signed up to work on more than 38 homes. This is an ongoing process which takes place over the whole year leading up to one week camp. I will tell you more about how well the camp went in the next newsletter so stay tuned.

We are starting a new program called Self-Help. With this program 12 homeowners can get a 1% loan or a senior grant (seniors can get a combination of both) from USDA to make home repairs. Each qualifying homeowner or qualifying family member will be required to do 125 hours of work on their own home and all repairs are to be completed by a licensed contractor. SALS will monitor the work of both the homeowner and the contractor to make sure the work is done in a timely manner and is up to code. We are taking applications now. You must be low income and qualify by credit score for the loan. The grant requirement is that you must be 62 or older and be low income. Anyone who is interested should give me a call at 304-250-7627.

We have been doing more rental counseling since people are calling in to find out about the Regina Three Rivers Apartments. There are still some vacancies so again I will say if anybody is interested give me a call.

All of the houses in Page are rented except one that needs some repairs and it is already spoken for. We have a list of families wanting to rent in the Page area. We have more applicants than rentals but hopefully that will change when the Helen M. Powell Apartments are built.

SALS Journal

And now last but certainly not least.....We finally closed on the house on Highlawn Park Avenue in Oak Hill. This was a donated home that SALS rehabilitated. Mr. Ira Hunt is the new homeowner. After he was qualified he chose the flooring and paint color for the interior. This made it more like his home. It was a long process but everything came together and he is very happy with his new house. So congratulations to Mr. Hunt. So I would like to thank everyone who helped make this happen. Now on to the next one...

Never a Dull Moment at SALS

Barbara Painter, AmeriCorps Director

The monthly Food Pantry in the Historic Oak Hill School continues to serve those that are hungry in our area. At the end of March, our records show that we have assisted more than 125 families during the first quarter of the year. Our application process changed, so the start date for this cycle was January 1, 2016. That is a lot of families for an area this size. Most of the time, you think of countries overseas that have people starving to death; however, it is happening right here in the United States. Most people think of giving donations at the holiday season, but people's hunger is not limited to the holiday season. Please consider giving to SALS at any time! It does not matter whether its non perishable food items, money or anything. We accept anything that is usable. Pickup can be arranged. We also had a lovely group of students in from the College of the Holy Cross and Loyola Academy helping with the food pantry---these youth were fantastic---from unloading the truck, sorting the food and assisting with the distribution. They were always so cheerful. I looked up one time to see a group of girls pushing a cart to the apartment house across the street, assisting an elderly lady on a walker. They were very heartwarming.

I continue assisting Artie with the AmeriCorps program, which is a learning process in itself. It is interesting and also exciting to hear folks getting excited as they near the end of their service. To have them come into my office and ask how many hours they have to get before they receive their AmeriCorps Educational Award shows they are interested in their own education as well as the progress of the agency.

We are busy here at the Historic Oak Hill School planning different events. It is spring and not only are the flowers beginning to show, great things are happening. On May 12, we again hosted the Fayette County School's Vo-Tech graduation.

I'm also assisting with the YouthBuild Program and teach the PACT curriculum. We have had two groups complete the classroom training on PACT.

I am still volunteering at the Heritage House in Beckley a few hours each month. I assisted with planning a St. Patrick's Day lunch where everything was green, even the dessert! This was a celebration where folks could get out of their apartments and visit with their neighbors while they enjoyed lunch.

I have written another grant to hopefully host another Drug Take Back in the Kincaid area. I have also been working on a grant to continue with Arts and History funding. This will be aimed at starting a pottery class at the Historic School. A third grant that I am working on is to assist in putting our youth through a certified OSHA 10 hour certification.

VISTA Communications

by Ed Warfield

Hello Everyone! My name is Ed Warfield and I am a new VISTA for Southern Appalachian Labor School. I started in February and am excited to be part of this dynamic team.

My role as a new VISTA is to help build social media presence, along with I-T consulting and installation, and helping to oversee the new Low Power Radio Station we recently obtained a license for. This month has had great success with the first floor computers being repaired and installed for both VISTA and public use.

Also, the Radio Room equipment is installed and waiting for one final piece before going on air. We are looking for individuals willing to be interviewed on public interest programs for 30 minute segments to be aired on a rotating basis. Anyone wanting to find out more can call the school at 304-465-4246. Thank you.



SALS VISTA Eric Keith talking to community member/ Director Esther Morey from the CODA Mountain Academy for SALS Mountain Radio W-A-G-E 106.5 FM on the air soon.

SALS Journal

Housing Gets Boost from YouthBuild Renewal

by Vickie Smith

Our new YouthBuild program is up and running with some really great young adults. They are energetic and bring promise to our area. Education in academics, construction and community service will not only change these young folks but also make changes in our community. Programs like this are extremely important to Southern West Virginia as our economy fails and we look to the future. We all need to look at the future with eager eyes and plan how to keep families here as well as have our community thrive. These young adults must be the answer and they definitely will have their hands full in many areas as they become young leaders for tomorrow. So, to our new group of leaders, I am watching for great things from you!!

It has been a busy year at SALS. Renovations in Gauley Bridge at Regina Three Rivers are winding down and tenants already there have been moved to new units. It is a relief to see them in safe, warm, sanitary conditions. All seem to be very pleased with the renovations and feel that they have homes.

We are in a joint effort with another organization. It has been "trying" at best to learn all the regulations and collect the required piles of paperwork. Just as we started the process I had to step back due to illness. It saddens me not to be able to follow through at 100 percent. Others stepped up to the plate to carry on, which is heartwarming.

As things take a downward spin in our area, it is going to be extremely important for all to work together. This is very hard to do as everyone tends to pull back and look inward and focus only on their needs. We all know with teamwork and collaborating groups, things tend to move in more positive direction.

YouthBuild News

by Kathryn South

Since the last newsletter the YouthBuild members have been busy with doing various tasks such as working on the new house on School Street in Oak Hill and working on the house in Montgomery. We have had four YouthBuild Cohorts begin this current grant cycle and we still are looking for 40 more youth before the grant is complete. Two of our youth attended the rural caucus in DC

and visited representatives to tell them their stories of how they became YouthBuild members and what they hope to gain from the experience. Jonathan Swafford and Joseph Shongo enjoyed their trip and were happy to meet other youth who are part of this great youth movement. They also met Dorothy Stoneman, the founder of Youth Build and other staff from YouthBuild USA.

The young people have had quite a year so far with so many college students coming to assist with the work the youth are doing in the area. Over 200 volunteers have come through SALS just since January. We hope the time was well spent for everyone and that it was a good experience for all involved. We expect many more volunteers over the summer and fall.

Two YouthBuild members got GEDs last month. Congratulations to Samuel Slater and Isiah Bess on their accomplishments one of many more to come for these talented young men. Sam is also a great artist. We expect to see some of his handiwork in and around the school for various projects. All of our youth are very special folks to us and we want to make sure they are appreciated for what they do for us.....and for themselves!

“Greetings of a New AmeriCorps VISTA”

by Jesse Smith

Hello all! My name is Jesse (Jay) T. Smith and I am one of the four new VISTA's. I am currently working at the Historic Oak Hill School. I see so many great things happening now at the building. I recently have just completed the first time doing the “VISTA Blend” online course.

My main focus in helping the community is in housing along with whatever else may arise. I am a long-time resident of Beards Fork. I look forward to helping others with home repairs and so much more.

It is my very hope that more and more people will assist by volunteering. There are many tasks to do from helping our elderly in the communities, seeing troubled young adults turn their lives around to assisting our great nations' Veteran's in our area, and seeing that affordable housing is offered to those in need. In small steps we can accomplish large things!

New VISTA Views

by Eric Keith

With my beginning weeks of being a VISTA, I have learned a large amount of very important skills to use in the future. I started with working with Ed Warfield getting the finishing touches of the new 106.5 WAGE Radio

SALS Journal

Station. He showed me the recording software, the sound board, and other pieces of equipment. Then Ed and I planned out the first floor and second floor computer network. We took an entire afternoon and planned how to wire up the VISTA office. As of now, we are preparing plans for the rest of the wiring that will hook the second floor offices up with internet service.

I helped Jay Smith with his house visits in preparation for the building inspector. We traveled around the Scarbro, Oak Hill, Montgomery area recording work that had been finished by SALS volunteers. Later that week, I organized some University of Connecticut students to unload a food truck, and to make ready food boxes at the pantry downstairs.

I traveled with Ed and Brenda to the Regina Apartments, saw some of the new construction being done there, and then coordinated some of the students in cleaning the first floor of the Historic Oak Hill School.

Recently, right at the end of our service day, we focused help on a small turtle tank, and got the two little turtles some fresh air.

I have whole heartedly enjoyed my entire time here at SALS as a VISTA, and am looking forward to everyday. I am grateful to have a strong team of VISTA's to help me, and teach me new skills everyday.

Helpful Spirit VISTAs

by William Austin and Kenna Bass

Just as winter leaves us and spring arrives, volunteer groups began to arrive into Beards Fork. These are college students: future doctors, nurses, lawyers, engineers, scientists, etc. They all have one goal in mind when they arrived.....to help. The eagerness they've shown is very inspiring. Not knowing what they will be doing didn't dampen their willingness to help wherever they were needed. They volunteered at the Historic Oak Hill School and at a location in Montgomery. After spending a full day at the work sites they were eager to get back to Beards Fork and interact with the kids participating in the After-School Program.

As spring arrives our gardening program will begin. Hopefully, more volunteers will come and help us, and the kids, with the garden. Their contributions will influence how much we grow and harvest. When all is said and done, as an organization, we could not accomplish the things that we do without the help of volunteers. No words can express how important they are or how much we truly appreciate their contributions.

Their volunteering spirit has made us proud that we're AmeriCorps/VISTA members and hope that we project the same helpful spirit as these students. Thank you for the pivotal work that you have provided thus far!



William Austin and Kenna Bass submitted and received a \$500 grant from local Walmart to assist with their agricultural organizing work at SALS

Spring Rally

by Vickie Mullins

I always look forward to warm weather coming; it means that our long dreary days of winter has gone, but it doesn't mean that they are gone for long. The weather is tricky; one day the weather is nice and then we're told of a mixture of rain and snow by the end of the week. Our programs here at SALS reminds me of the weather; some days are better than others....but before long, the sunshine will stick around in the end.

Our programs will become better if we continue to hang in there and give them our best. At SALS, all of us try to help families with work on their homes, receive low-income housing, with food, and After-School tutoring – feeding program. We believe in making sure Fayette County residents receive an opportunity to grow/become independent as homeowners and residents. We also offer a program in the summer known as Energy Express – a six week reading program that helps kids maintain reading abilities while out of school during the summer break. Tests, such as the Woodcock Johnson, proves that they will advance at least one grade level.

AmeriCorps members are their mentors. They love the program. However, because we are located at a community center and not a school, it makes us ineligible to receive Title One funds or any extra funds that other schools get. We do receive funds from the West Virginia Department of Education (Office of Child Nutrition) in the form of reimbursements for food served to the kids. At SALS we believe in providing healthy foods and that's why we are a part of the Nutrition program which provides

a healthy snack and supper for all participating kids 18 years old and under.

Our programs are good for kids of all ages; it gives them a safe place to come and socialize, get tutoring, enrichment activities, and fed two meals a day. I will continue to fundraise and promote SALS where we believe "Everybody is Somebody".

SALS Kincaid Office Busy Keeping Grants Going

by Ruth Lanham

Our office is right now in the peak season of writing and submitting grants. We have recently submitted proposals to The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation (2 grant proposals). We are getting ready to submit proposals for Energy Express, which is a summer program for children. YouthBuild is up and running. We have got some great folks in the program. We are in need of applicants from the ages of 16-24 who never completed high school who want to earn a stipend and receive construction skills with GED education. We are still searching for grants to use for housing for low income families. The Regina Apartments are ready for applicants with several apartments open. Applications are available.

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 regular reports to our funders.

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 pantry 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 greatly appreciated.

Any use 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 Kincaid office on Route 61. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness to less advantaged members your community. God will bless you richly for your kindness.

Voice of a VISTA

by Brenda Warrick

This has been an exciting adventure so far as a VISTA. I have been working with our new SALS Mountain Radio Station W-A-G-E 106.5 and arranging some very interesting interviews that include many varieties of talent and challenges in our community. We are almost ready to launch the radio station on the air and our expectations are to be the best! Ed Warfield, another SALS VISTA, has been a wonderful asset to our station along with the other new VISTAs, Erica and Jessie, who are a husband and wife team. Eric is another VISTA with knowledge and expertise. These folks are fantastic team players!!!

I also helped coordinate students who are volunteering, introducing them to the cultural differences, local foods, and the way of life in this area. They went home understanding the importance that SALS has in the community and in helping others. We have enlightened them on how different our way of life is here in Southern West Virginia compared to the areas they came from. So far we have hosted Eastern Michigan University, Virginia Commonwealth University, College of the Holy Cross, University of Connecticut and Loyola Academy.

Christian Endeavor and other faith-based groups arrive starting in June. So far our groups have been so helpful and friendly, words cannot express the bonds that have been formed during their time with us. Some students have even returned to visit with our members of our YouthBuild group.

YouthBuild is an astonishing group of young men and women who learn and work here at SALS. They range in ages and the oldest is 25. Greatest group of



VISTA Erica Gagne-Smith, a Navy veteran, coordinated our SALS display at the Veterans Showdown in Rainelle in Mayalong with help from SALS VISTA Jesse Smith.

SALS Journal

young adults that I could ever imagine working with!

The SALS crews at Beards Fork and Kincaid need to be mentioned also because they are super fantastic! Thank you all for taking me in and teaching me the true meaning of care and love towards the children that you all correspond with daily making sure that they are tutored and served their dinners. As I slip in ever so often and see the children happy and well taken care of with smiles on their faces....I admire the workers who have put them there.

Dr. John David has been an excellent mentor during my tenure here...I will always appreciate the amount of time and effort he puts forth in helping me and others to be the best we can be. Sometimes I give him a run for his money because of my stubbornness and hard headedness but we seem to always meet in the middle and come out with a win-win situation. I aspire to be half the person that he is...his work ethics are wonderful and he does care about people in need....going that extra mile 100% of the time. There is never a dull moment when working with John David and I say that with the utmost respect.

I'm looking forward to continuing this journey with people I truly care and love. More than anything I look forward to seeing my dear friend and co-worker Vickie Smith return soon....please keep her in your prayers.

To end this article I want to share with everyone a quote that I have used for many years now. "Nothing is impossible as long as you dream and you believe" author unknown. We at SALS have big dreams and believe in each other....we can make anything happen!

VISTA Greetings

by Erica Smith

Hello everyone, my name is Erica Smith and I am one of the new VISTAS for SALS. I am currently working out of the Historic Oak Hill School in Oak Hill, WV. My position is one of the coordinators for the Veterans in Place project, serving homeless and regular veterans. I did my VISTA training online and completed it ahead of schedule giving me a jump on being able to start my position.

This position is very near and dear to my heart because I am a veteran of the United States Navy, as well as the Army National Guard. I have traveled all over the United States, including living in Maryland, Virginia, Montana, North Dakota, Mississippi and Georgia but Fayette County WV is my home and forever will be my favorite.

I am honored to serve in my community, as well as serve my fellow veterans. I look forward to meeting everyone and getting your ideas for this program. I hope to add to the success of the many programs SALS has to offer.

Down on the SALS Farm

By LaToya Ray

The days have been exciting here at SALS taking care of all these wonderful farm animals. During the morning's, upon arrival, the first task is to feed all the animals. Not only do the animals take a lot of time, but we also have to get our garden plowed, old plants pulled up, and new soil down. We also are getting ready raised beds which the community is able to use. We would like to work closely with the farmers market and hopefully our children will be able to learn how to become young entrepreneurs.

Accent Education

by Charlene Newkirk

The SALS Afterschool "Accent Education" program has been very successful this 2015-2016 school year. The students worked very hard on their homework and received good grades on their progress reports. Some of the activities that the kids have been participating in includes the Black History Month program, which consisted of a memorial for Ms. Helen M. Powell. The children portrayed differed famous African Americans and the children later lit candles in her remembrance as Erica Smith, sang Amazing Graze. The service ended with Ms. Lindsay Powell speaking on behalf of her grandmother. For Easter, the afterschool children traveled to the SALS Historic Oak Hill School to dye Easter eggs with Mrs. Erica Smith. They also participated in arts and crafts with various people, later followed with an Easter egg hunt. Other activities that occurred in the spring quarter coming are the Fayette County Health Department, United Bank, and the Page-Kincaid Public Service District. We would like to thank all who came. The children also went to the New River National Park to observe the wildlife and the Loop Creek Volunteer Fire Department. The last field trip was to the Pinheads Bowling Center in Oak Hill, WV.

HUD Awards SALS Housing Counseling Grant

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded in June housing counseling grants to hundreds of national, regional and local organizations. HUD's housing counseling grants and the additional funding they leverage will assist more than 1.4 million households find housing, make more informed housing choices, or keep their current homes. SALS received one of three grants awarded to WV non-profits to

continue its Housing Counseling program.

June is National Homeownership Month. "Dare to Own the Dream" is the theme of this month, reinforcing the long-held belief that owning a home remains one of the cornerstones of the American Dream. Watch [HUD's video](#) on how housing counseling can help families find (and keep) housing.

HUD Secretary Julián Castro said, "Housing counselors provide potential homeowners with the tools they need to ensure they're ready and responsible. Their efforts give countless families a real shot at the American Dream of homeownership. The counseling organizations HUD supports are on the front lines in providing the full spectrum of services households need – from locating affordable rental housing, offering advice on how to become a homeowner, and preventing foreclosure."



SALS YouthBuild in Washington DC: Joe Shongo on the far left; Jonathan Swafford on the far right

SALS rushes YouthBuild Construction Crew to repair government roof in DC

Annually YouthBuild USA hosts the Young Leader's Conference in DC. This year, SALS sent a two person delegation consisting of Joe Shongo (photo far left) and Jonathan Swafford (photo far right). The SALS contingent attended a small weekend national rural caucus followed by the regular session of over 100 delegates during the week. The session focused on leadership development and concluded with a visit on Capitol Hill for meetings with elected representatives and government officials



Self-Help Housing Project Receives USDA Grant

Tony Hernandez, National Federal Administrator for USDA Rural Housing, made a special visit to the SALS Historic Oak Hill School on June 23 to present a BIG grant check for the new SALS Self-Help Housing Project, the only one funded in West Virginia.

Shown in the above photo (left to right) Hernandez, SALS Construction Manager Vickie Smith, SALS Director John David, SALS Board Chair Marcus Wilkes, and USDA State Director Bobby Lewis.

Also present were USDA representatives David Cain, Lisa Sharp, and Shane Houck as well as YouthBuild participants, AmeriCorps/VISTA members, SALS staff, and volunteers from Loyola Academy, many in the picture below.



SALS Journal

M. L. K. DAY “A day on not a day off” Celebrating a Man of Honor

On January 18, 2016 SALS AmeriCorps/VISTA, and staff celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by helping out the Fayette County Community with food distribution from the local food bank.

We began our day with the unloading of the food trucks and loading a large amount of food from the Mountaineer Food Bank onto the SALS vans for our two Food Pantries at Beards Fork and at the Historic Oak Hill School.



We ended our day by cleaning up the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork and the surrounding area by picking up trash and debris, as well as providing a homeless veteran with building materials for fixing up a living space.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an African-American Baptist minister and social activist from Georgia, stood for peace, equality and justice, especially for African-Americans and the socially disadvantaged. He played an integral role in the American civil rights movement and is considered to be the driving force that brought about such legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

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

Linda Dillard
 Jimmy Adkins
 Terry Black

Custodian
 YouthBuild Trainer
 YouthBuild Trainer

SALS Historic Oak Hill School
304-465-4246 phone/fax
Kincaid office voice or fax: 304-250-7627
or 304-465-9732

Vickie Mullins
 Tyler Atkins
 Latoya Ray
 William Austin
 Kenna Bass
 Brenda Warrick
 Erica Gagne-Smith
 Ed Warfield
 Jesse Smith
 Eric Keith

AmeriCorps/VISTA

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 VISTA
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 VISTA

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

'Accent Education' After School Program

Charlene Newkirk Site Coordinator
 Wilda Salter Foster Grandparent

Energy Express

Adam Shuemaker, Site Teacher

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WVU Extension Service

Lauren Weatherford, Andrea Meader
 Casandra Bandy

WV Division of Juvenile Services

Youth Report Center/SALS Historic Oak Hill School
 Chuck Taylor, Director

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 _____

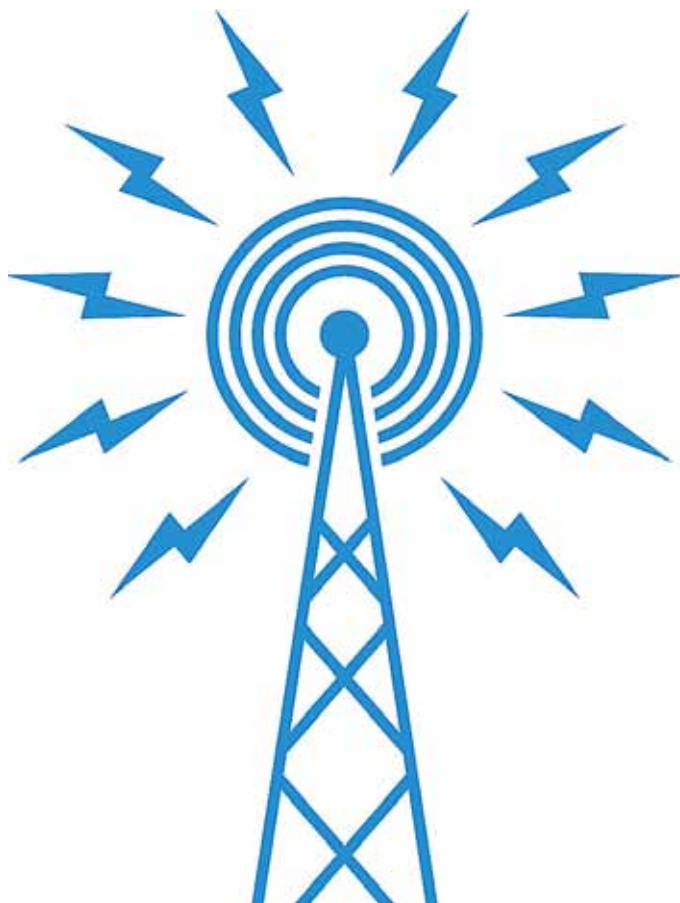
SALS engages in solicitation to support the Southern Appalachian Labor School. WV residents may obtain a summary of our registration and financial documents from the Sec. of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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WV 25119

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