

SALS JOURNAL

*a publication of the
Southern Appalachian Labor School*



Volume 39 Issue 2

www.sals.info

Winter 2016

YOUTHBUILD- One Answer to the Drug Abuse Problem

by Marcus Wilkes, SALS Board Chair

West Virginia has the highest per capita overdose death rate in the nation. Nine of every ten overdose deaths have prescription drugs as a sole or contributing cause of death. This abuse is not only a public health problem – it is the number one crime problem in WV's Southern District and a significant financial burden to our state, according to a recent state Summit on Prescription Drug Abuse report. The financial burden of substance abuse will only continue to increase unless prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery are adequately addressed.

National Survey of Drug Use and Health data reveal most prescription drug abusers obtain their drugs from family and friends. Changing beliefs and behaviors about prescription sharing is vital to decreasing prescription drug abuse. Public awareness of appropriate prescription drug storage and availability of proper disposal is needed in order to decrease the supply of prescription drugs for potential diversion and abuse.

Former presidential candidate, Rev. Jesse Jackson once postulated, drugs are the anesthesia for the pain of the lack of economic opportunity. YouthBuild is in a position to provide an alternate opportunity for individuals who are most likely to abuse drugs as a means to dull the pain or instead, to seek positive entrepreneurial ventures or careers.

Many of these individuals are young unemployed adults who did not complete high school. YouthBuild engages individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 who need a GED in order to increase their opportunity for success. These individuals are taught skills in the construction trade while studying for a GED, and earning a small stipend for their work.

In West Virginia discussions about decent jobs begin with what has happened to coal — an industry

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*AmeriCorps members studying for their TASC/GED at
Historic Oak Hill School*

that employs about 32,000 in the state, fewer than half the number of jobs it provided in 1976. West Virginia coal will always be needed as a source for production and energy. But if our next generation of workers is to sustain families and communities, then parents may want to recommend that their youth learn skills that can be transferred into job markets outside the coal industry.

For nearly two decades, SALS has provided YouthBuild program opportunities for youth in southern West Virginia. Many of these youth become certified in construction trades, which allow them to earn a living. Many trades provide good income, such as plumbing, masonry, or electrician, and provide a beginning for family support.

Clearly, the next generation of youth cannot depend on the coal industry for decent jobs. Growth in the southern West Virginia economy will depend on the skills that our emerging labor force will need to develop housing and other infrastructure needed for economic development.

Let's keep SALS service areas moving in the right direction. Let's keep encouraging youth who are most vulnerable because of poor decisions, to learn a trade that can help provide a life-long career.

Director's Report

John David

SALS continues to slide along. It seems every piece of news that is refreshing is instantly followed by bad news. Some of the bad news is personal, as the SALS Family experiences illnesses and the passing of loved ones. The other bad news takes the form of missed opportunities or the lack of cooperation by those who should be working together.

The flooding that hit our area on June 23, 2016 has had profound ramifications. Over 2000 homes were damaged or destroyed and 23 people died. Since then the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh funded SALS via United Bank for "Restored Coalfield Housing" which will help rehabilitate 10 coal camp houses owned by low income families.

Still now, our area remains a FEMA designated disaster area. Since both SALS community centers are also emergency shelters, they were immediately activated. While the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork had emergency generators, the Historic Oak Hill School did not. Based on faith, Lowes installed a massive \$35,000 emergency generator the next morning....and donations flowed in. Major donations came from Lowes, the United Mine Workers, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Neighborworks/FAHE, and BB&T, along with many other people and organizations. The support was phenomenal and currently the generator is 85% paid for. In addition, SALS was recently awarded funds by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh via United Bank to assist people in repairing their flood-damaged homes, and another allocation of funding for low-income owner-occupied rehabs.

Three major changes deserve special mention. One is the passing of Ken Hechler at age 102. Ken was our Congressman who spearhead the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 and was a tireless advocate for Black Lung benefits. Ken was the coal miner's friend and a friend of SALS who inspired the fight for social justice in the coalfields. The second is the passing of folksinger David Morris. With his brother John and family roots in Clay County, David was a fixture in the successful Miners for Democracy movement; organized the memorial concert tribute for Linda Meade, who was the first SALS organizer; and recorded the SALS theme song. The third is the retirement of Kenny Perdue, a sheet metal worker who headed the West Virginia AFL-CIO for nearly 20 years. Kenny devoted his

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*In the picture on next page - Left to Right
Artie Mullins, John David & Brenda Warrick
taking some time to visit with a recent
Global Volunteers group at John's home in Oak Hill*

career in the fight for working class families and was a key figure in collaborative efforts that championed what was right and fair.

Also in June, the Regina Three Rivers Apartments in Gauley Bridge became operational. It is a fabulous facility, with state-of-the art grid connected water heaters to having the only coin-operated laundry in Gauley Bridge. Many at SALS are involved with the operations, along with experienced staff with the Central Appalachia Empowerment Zone.

In November, SALS was invited to be on a panel with the Veterans Administration and Habitat for Humanity at the national Housing Assistance Conference. The topic was on rural housing for veterans, which fits into the SALS effort to renovate the 3rd Floor of the Historic Oak Hill School for that purpose.

The Historic Oak Hill School has become a hub for varied activities, including Tai Chi classes, National Grandparents Day, and SALS Mountain Radio W-A-G-E 106.5 FM. The station, coordinated by VISTAs Ed Warfield and Eric Keith with Marshall University intern Peter Wilson, has moved its tower to a high ridge near Oak Hill in order to expand its coverage area and serve "Unheard Voices". The station serves Oak Hill, Fayetteville, Mt. Hope, part of Beckley, and Page-Kincaid.

SALS has several new concept proposals on the drawing board, including Appalachian Modular Homes, AdultBuild, The Shelter Company, and Fruitful Farms. Whether these initiatives will move forward and help families deal with "After Coal" is problematic at best. Time will tell but may not be on "our side".

As the Holiday Season surrounds us, it is worth noting what SALS has come to represent. The basic areas are houselessness, social bonding by serving with honor, volunteer engagement, educational advancement, creative employment, certified training, agricultural growth, healthy living, nutritional awareness, and cultural appreciation.

To do what we do, we rely on your loyal and generous support. Thank you for your help because without it, we would not survive and those we seek to empower would be forgotten. Be Well, Do Good Things, and Stay in Touch!



Competing Issues Tug at West Virginia's Future

by Dr. John P. David,
reprinted from the Charleston Gazette-Mail Nov. 28, 2016

Two contradictory issues face West Virginia during the upcoming period.

One is economic re-deployment. It is a well-known fact that resource based well-paid jobs are no longer the driving economic force they once were, whether one looks at steel, glass, chemicals, or coal. While upticks with certain specialties, such as metallurgical coal, will occur, the overall situation paints a picture of change.

The other contradictory issue is health care. There can be little question that any economic revitalization will require a healthy, well educated, and dependable workforce. The fact that more than 170,000 West Virginians gained coverage over the past several years because of Medicaid expansion was a positive step in creating a healthier workforce for those who need to be more engaged, a fact that is also indicated by the state's low labor force participation rate.

Repeal or disruption of either existing or continued coverage expansion will be a set-back if West Virginia expects to compete with healthier locations. As noted by West Virginia University Professor Simon F. Haeder, a related impact will be the closing of rural hospitals in West Virginia which rely on Medicaid to pay for formerly uncompensated care. A similar crisis will face programs like free/charitable clinics and community-based clinics which also rely on Medicaid compensation. Whether they can make up probable operating shortfalls with other state and

federal grants is risky as budgets shrivel or are re-allocated.

Based on Governor's Romney's plan in Massachusetts, the Affordable Care Act is not a perfect piece of legislation. It permits market forces to function, particularly in categories of insurance and pharmaceuticals for those not eligible for Medicaid. The rising costs in this sector have created a backlash and provide a focus for a missing piece that should be addressed.

Instead of tossing out the baby with the bathwater or moving toward the non-desirable option of lower premiums for only catastrophic coverage with unaffordable deductibles, it is time to seriously think again about Single Payer Health Care. The "single-payer" option which permits people a free choice of providers is clearly comprehensive and cost effective. It eliminates one of the most expensive features of our present health system: the high administrative cost of paperwork by 1,500 insurance companies.

The single-payer plan funnels all existing revenue into a single, nonprofit board that would make all payments for services. The program would also control pharmaceuticals and the costs of medical procedures. Nationally, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has noted that a one-payer system would save the nation \$1.3 trillion over a decade. Congress' Government Accountability Office estimates the cost savings would exceed \$60 billion a year. Such savings would provide decent health care for all without having the consequence of a cost-shift model as currently is the case.

Yes, West Virginia, this would be a valuable addition to Santa's pack as we work together to create healthy change and new directions from the bottom up.

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

We welcome articles and
submissions by our readers.

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YouthBuild News

by Kathryn South

Since we last reported on YouthBuild activities, folks have been busy with lots of tasks. The house at School/Central in Oak Hill is nearly complete and under contract to a very excited low income family. The youth are finishing up with a ramp and then the final inspection should be forthcoming. Good work everyone on a job well done. The youth are doing lots of educational trainings through various groups, one being New River Health Association.

The team at New River have contracted to do health related workshops each quarter and more often if the need arises to offer this information. Doctor Doyle has offered his services to our youth to make sure all of the immunizations are up to date. We hope all of our youth take advantage of this very important health benefit.

Congratulations are due to all our youth for thier accomplishments. The young people are working hard on the TASC testing. Brandon Hudnall and Jessi Parker recently got certificates of completion from our Partner, the Fayette Institute of Technology from VoTech. Jessi Parker has passed and just received her GED diploma! Jessi also got her driver's license a month ago. Go Jessi!!!!

Jessi Parker and Sam Slater have been putting in hours on weekends working with Kenna Bass and her friend Dave on the pens for the animals at the SALS Farm at our Community Center in Beards Fork. We have two pigs, seven ducks, and about 12 chickens that keeps folks busy feeding them each day and making sure all is secure for the livestock and safe from predators. The children in our Accent Education and Energy Express programs are also directly involved.

Site Supervisor's Report

by Jim Adkins

We finished the new home in Montgomery and helped with the Haunted House fundraiser in Oak Hill. We worked on the new School Street home installing a wheel chair ramp and some interior finish work. Now we are back at the Gauley Bridge house finishing up with the heating. Jessi Parker completed her GED testing and also passed her driving test. She has a license now and congratulations goes out to her since she has worked very hard.

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AmeriCorps Jessi Parker proudly displays her graduation tassel for earning her GED in December.

Eager Beavers

by Charlene Newkirk

This year our Accent Education Afterschool Program began September 12th, 2016. We currently have 47 children enrolled with an average attendance of 25. After the children arrive they are given a healthy snack before we begin the class-work phase of the program. During this phase the children work on their homework and are given help if needed. For the children who do not have any homework, we encourage a 15-20 minute reading time. After this phase, they are given "playtime" for 20 minutes. Next we enter the classroom phase which are set up per grade. In this phase, we provide science projects, math problems, art project, etc. Below is an example of an art project. We just washed off the paint from the pumpkins and made turkeys for Thanksgiving.

Periodically, we will have a visitor to come and give a presentation to the children. Most recently Ms. Jennifer, from Upward Bound, came and talked to the children about the Upward Bound Program. This program is beneficial to our high school students and they are eager to learn about the program.

At 5:45 the children are served a healthy dinner prepared by Ms. Vickie Mullins and her staff. After dinner, the children board the vans for their ride home. We strive to broaden the knowledge of our children and prepare them for their future.



SALS work crews (dressed for cold weather) assemble at Historic Oak Hill School to receive morning assignments



Santa comes to SALS Beards Fork Community Center bring a bag of gifts to kids in the after school program



Energy Express program at Community Center in Beards Fork hosts Open House "Making A Difference" Event: Run for The Future with Active Southern West Virginia in August. Photo Credits: Steve Keenan, Fayette Tribune
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Three Little Pigs

by Kenna Bass

Our first little pig, his name is George, and if you let him loose, oh how he loves to forge. His house is small but he was still just one. All such the kids giggle.....he's fun.

Our next little pig, her name is Lulu, she came to us late, the kids all think she's coo-coo. A bigger house is needed cause our family still grows, with a third on the way, now do you see John David's woes?

Our third little pig, we hope will arrive soon. Fefe she called. Are you seeing the dilemma that I'm trying to describe? Our 3 little pigs needed a home. So we brought them to SALS on our funny farm where they now belong. If, in fact, you have any doubt, then come by SALS after-school program and we can show you what we're about.

Constructing Change from the Ground Up

by Vickie Smith

Our construction crews have been very busy with rehabs, remodeling our homes for sale or rent, and completing our new "proceeds" home. A "proceeds" house is one that is built using proceeds from a prior CHDO/HUD (Community Housing Development Corporation) project. I have also been working with the new homeowners for the proceeds house. She and her son are very excited to be first time homebuyers.

Lately, I have also been doing write-ups and obtaining bids for our new USDA 523 Self Help program. As a non-profit we struggle to find funding that helps seniors and the handicapped folks but yet the funding is sent back to the federal government every year because the governing agencies in our state seem to have no compassion or the understanding of the struggles of the everyday person. In my opinion it is politics and the good ol' boy system.

I recently met an elderly lady who is very ill and unable to get out of a chair unaided. She lives alone and has to rely on a grandson who is in high school to come home to help her up to go to restroom or get something to eat. She sits in the chair for hours on end patiently waiting on someone to show up and aid her. She has a leaky roof, no heat and interior

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ceiling damage. Our organization put out word for a lift chair and have been able to secure one for her. It needs some repairs but hopefully we will be able to repair it and place it in her home so that she will be able to take care of basic needs that we all take for granted.

In our community we have many needs, such as housing stock and a better quality of life for so many. This also includes food, health care, and compassion. My prayer is that our country pulls together and really makes as much of a difference as possible for all in this country.

Successful Year 2016-2017

by Vickie Mullins

It was a good year at SALS and many things have happened. We made it through two programs that helped a lot of kids. Our After-School "Accent Education" program has been running with the help of friends at The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. If it wasn't for them, we would have not had the funding to keep the program up and flowing. With their help, we're able to complete various projects, such as different science experiments, math and spelling bees, etc. The kids enjoy participating in the projects where they even learn how organisms grow by using microscopes to observe them in containers.

Our other programs known as Energy Express had a great turnout during the summer. SALS was able to sign up 55 kids to participate Monday thru



Construction crew applies siding to remodeled home

Friday. They all read about 30 minutes throughout the day with the help of volunteers and peers their age. While reading was a big part of their day, they also ate two nutritious meals, breakfast and lunch, which were cooked daily. The meals were made fresh every day. We served not only here but also in the Oak Hill, Fayetteville, Montgomery, and Smithers areas. In all, we served over 3200 meals to needy children in Fayette County, including those with Energy Express at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork. We delivered lunches to children at various apartment buildings and gave out children books to all the kids who received the lunches.

Our goal at SALS is to make sure kids have a safe place to go because their parents may be at work until the evening time. Grandparents have raised many of the children into young men and women; it is now our job to make them responsible adults by keeping programs like ours open for all school-age kids and the families that depend on us to "make a difference".

My Adventures at Regina

by Brenda Warrick

SALS owns a freshly rehabilitated apartment complex in Gauley Bridge. First off, I'm clueless to how or why I was sent to SALS Regina Apartments in the first place and John seems to be also ...or at least that's what he wants me to think.

What appeared to be a brief trip to Regina is now two trips per day with my other job in between those trips. My hours start at 5 a.m. and some nights I might make it home around 11pm-12am.



*Reginia Apartments are remodeled and ready to move in.
Contact SALS for info!*

Even though the hours are long and the drive time is about 4 hours per day, me and that little Silver Bullet loll...we used to call it the Silver Bomb before it got a muffler...with the radio that picks up about half a song at a time...would not have it any other way.

What appeared in the beginning as a bunch of rough and rowdy characters have stolen my heart. I opened the book and read their stories to be able to see wonderful and amazing people that live at Regina. Truthfully I always said...If God got you here he has a plan...no mistakes made. Just wonder what his grand scheme is this time. Looks like I have another year to figure it out because I just signed up for another year as a VISTA! Of course I've gotten used to making my regular stop on my home to give John a full report of Regina every night just like a bad habit lol and I wouldn't want to break that habit.

Information In Place

by Edwin Warfield

I am an AmeriCorps VISTA assigned to SALS "Information In Place" project. I have been very busy getting information out to the community with other VISTAs and our intern from Marshall U. We covered local election forums and aired programs designed to educate the public on candidates running for office. We broadcast "unheard voices" and community stories on SALS Mountain Radio 106.5 FM, W-A-G-E.

We just moved our antenna to push our signal out to more households. We reach most of Fayette County and part of Raleigh so call in for interviews to get information out about your community events. The contact number for setting up stories is 304-465-4246. We're also looking for new artists in the area... all music format types. Free airtime! Also offering 30 minute slots for local groups to do weekly activity updates or topics as well.

W-A-G-E needs your support -email us with ideas at: WAGERADIO@OUTLOOK.COM. See our fund-raising site at: www.crowdrise.com/fundraiser/campaign-updates/943098

I also helped coordinate the design of a flyer and Open House signs to promote SALS newly refurbished Regina apartments in Gauley Bridge.

Another project I organized is a security system package at the Historic Oak Hill School for getting both audio and video streaming on line for US to watch what is exactly going on at the school when we are away. It was very productive season but there's so much more to do.



No that's not Spiderman, its Ed Warfield installing the new antenna for SALS Mountain Radio!

Tis The Season.....for Growing

by LaToya Ray

What a season we had! Amidst all the rain and hot temperatures, we managed to have a successful garden this year. After replacing the grow plastic on the high tunnel and replacing the plant beds, we could plant our vegetables. We were not disappointed. The yield was plentiful. I called it the Garden of Eden simply because the plants were so beautiful and full.

This allowed us to have vegetables for the after school meals and still have enough to give to people in the community. Although fall and winter have arrived, we still have greens and eggplants growing. Now we get into the planning stage to see how we can expand on this year's success and get our youth more involved next year.

We still have our ducks, rabbit, and chickens. The eggs we gather from the chickens we use in meals prepared for the youth programs and the remaining eggs we sell to help support the garden/farm. However, if someone wants eggs but can't afford to pay we do not charge. We are doing all we can to bring the meaning of community back to our communities.

Next Season

by William Austin & Kenna Bass

As summer fades into fall and winter, it begins the end of our outdoor gardening season. This past

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season has had its share of challenges which has prepared us for the gardening season of 2017. We have great plans for the upcoming season. We'll be erecting a greenhouse, building raised beds, using Earth Boxes around the walking trail for the elderly and disabled, planting different fruit trees, and expanding to sites in the surrounding communities.

The "offseason" will be dedicated to seeking funding for alternative gardening methods such as Aquaponics and Hydroponics. These methods will allow us to garden year-round indoors. We will also utilize some of the Earth Boxes to grow indoors with the help of our After-School youth. Much can be taught and learned through gardening particularly science and math.

On Tuesday, we received a visit from Mr. Christopher Kimes, Government Relations Director of the WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition, who also is with the Try This Coalition which recently awarded us with a grant for our gardening project. We talked with him about our plans for next season. He is excited about our plans and will meet with us in the future. Kenna and I received news that our AmeriCorps/VISTA terms were renewed this week also. So, we'll be around for another year....at least.

The gardening program that SALS is involved with received a lot of help from volunteers. As we move forward in planning for next year, their contribution will have an impact on us having a successful season next year. We thank everyone who has helped us.

Making A Difference

by Jessie Smith, VISTA

GREETINGS! As we close out of the year 2016, I fondly look back on an impressive, productive year here at SALS. Many things were accomplished. One was the outstanding turn out of children who were fed from our summer food program. Each and every day smiling children greeted us looking forward to myself and my wife, Eric Smith, to bring them lunches, read to them and talk with them. I have never been so impressed by the work that SALS accomplishes. I truly am proud to say I am extremely happy to be a part of something so special. I never imagined that I could make a difference in assisting with someone the way I have from helping our neighbors around us, making sure an elderly person has enough food for the month or ensuring that children are getting a healthy meal in the summer.

The Veterans' Project

by Erica Gagne, VISTA

I want to fill everyone in on what all has been going on since our last newsletter. Opportunities have been opening up left and right for the veterans' project. As many may know, we at SALS are working diligently on the third floor for this project. Converting 16 rooms into efficiency apartments for our homeless and disabled veterans requires a lot of work and a lot of money. We are working hard on establishing grants, as well as donations to make this wonderful dream a reality. One way I have established to bring in donations is by placing decorated donation jars, along with our newsletters around the community in local businesses. This will not only bring in funds but also making the community aware of our efforts. These donation jars are a very recent endeavor so I have no monetary total to report at this time. I've also had the extreme honor of sharing this story and partnering with the Beckley VA Medical Center's Homeless Division, so that we all can work together in the cause of ending homelessness among veterans. As the year 2016 comes to an end, I am very pleased with the strides and progress SALS has made in the veteran's project and I'm honored to be a part of it, not just as the VISTA veteran coordinator, but as a veteran myself. Looking forward to an even better 2017!!!

AmeriCorps and More

by Barb Painter

Well, things have been busy since the last newsletter! It seems that SALS continues to grow and as we grow, there is more work to do.

I will begin with the food pantry at the Historic Oak Hill School. As the number of lay-offs grow, so do the number of families needing food. We are serving on the average of 100-110 families at the Oak Hill site, one of the two SALS sites. We could serve more but we run out of food each month. It is sad to see so many hungry people each month; the children really break your heart. Even the elderly are experiencing cuts in their food stamps. If you have extra, please consider giving.

I have been busy working with the YouthBuild students. We have a good group of youth this round and they are a joy. They always want to assist you in whatever you are doing. I have been busy teach-

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ing the PACT Curriculum to the youth. I handle the classroom training and then Jimmie Adkins and Terry Black do the really hard part---the on the job training. The youth seem to be coming along and eager to learn. That is the important part, to teach them the construction trade so that they can locate good jobs in that field. I am proud of each and every one of them!

I continue working with the AmeriCorps Program, all but two in our 2015 group received their educational awards and the two who did not had illnesses. Each youth is being entered into this program to earn awards to continue their education as well as learning construction skills. We already have several that have either earned their college degree or are currently working on it.

Talk about ghosts and goblins! I opened the food trailer and sold concessions during the SALS Haunted House—I never knew clowns were going to want hotdogs, or count Dracula!! It was interesting and educational for me! After all, isn't education one of SALS goals? The youth enjoyed themselves and so did I.

Elvira, a painted box turtle that was rescued from the middle Whipple by one of Experience Works employees, now resides in her tank in my office. She is pretty and loves cantaloupe!

Speaking of Experience Works, we have two Experience Works workers at the Historic Oak Hill School and one at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork. Robin Workman is an office organizer who does a good job while she is finishing her college education. Roy Jones is the turtle rescuer and also does the janitorial services at the school. They are both greatly appreciated. Roy also assists with the food distribution monthly. Cynthia Rollins is the SALS greeter in Beards Fork. Experience Works



Food Pantry distribution day at Historic Oak Hill School

is for older workers who are learning a new career while earning a small stipend.

Thanks to all who assist the Southern Appalachian Labor School with our efforts to assist low income individuals and families.

I have also been busy at the Heritage House in Beckley, acting as its Information and Referral specialist. With Medicare, and Medicaid open enrollment, things are busy. They also have a great success story. We were monitored by the leader of National Housing Services and he thought that we were doing a great job at Heritage House.

SALS Kincaid News

by Ruth Lanham

***WE WISH EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!***

Our Kincaid office is still in the process of writing and submitting grants. We have recently submitted proposals to two or three different agencies. We are getting ready to submit proposals which include Flex-E-Grant, Energy Express and Power grants. Energy Express is a summer program for children to help them read and keep up during the summer which also includes nutritious meals.

YouthBuild is up and doing great. We have approximately 40 participants. We have got some great folks in the program. However, we are in need of applicants from the ages of 16-24 - high school drop outs who can earn a stipend and receive construction skills with GED education.

We are still searching for grants to improve the housing for low income families. The Regina Apartments are ready for applicants with several apartments open. We now have several units rented but still have several open.

The office stays busy with endless hours of working to keep funds coming in so we can continue the programs that we offer. 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 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.

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We have tax credits available at this time to exchange for donated vehicles. The fleet we have at this time is getting very worn and old with extremely high mileage.

We receive phone calls and walk-ins daily with needs such as food. We have elderly people calling frequently needing a window repaired or similar tasks. There are times when families need furnishings such as a washer, stove, dryer, or refrigerator. The old one quit working and they have no funds to purchase these items. I would like to be able to help everyone who calls or walks in, but we are not able to do so. If you would like to donate in any way to help our communities, any and all things would be greatly 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.

Helping Our Neighbors Keep Warm & Dry

by Lisa Manley

We have already started taking home repair applications for Group Workcamp 2017. This year we had 75-100 applications but only 38 families got repairs on their homes. There were 338 volunteers from several different states who came to the Cedar Grove area and stayed in the Community School. They slept in classrooms on the floor. This was an



*Ruth Lanham is celebrated on her birthday
in her Kincaid office!*

outstanding group of young people and all of the residents had positive things to say at the end of the week. Not only did the volunteers paint, build wheelchair ramps, and more, they take time to get to know the homeowners and spend time with them. This program has such positive impact on the communities served. Site write-ups will begin soon.

We are finishing up the last three REHABs. That means that there are 10 less homes in Fayette County needing a roof. Most of these residents also got heat systems. So they will be both warm and dry this winter.

There is a new grant to help with repairs to homes affected by the floods this past summer. We are currently in the process of taking applications. So as you are reading this and you or someone you know in Fayette County West Virginia, have damage to your home from the 2016 flood call me at 304-250-7627 and I will send you an application and hopefully we can help you.

Next, let's look at the Self-Help program. This program is for a home repair grant/loan through USDA RD. It requires the homeowner to do 125 hours of repair work (that's where the self-help part comes in) to your home working with a licensed contractor. SALS monitors the work and makes sure it is being done in a timely manner and is up to code. We currently have three applications that made it through the first step and are now being reviewed by USDA. Those 62 or older may qualify for a grant up to \$7500. Those under 62 may qualify for a loan with a 1% fixed interest, and the 62 or older group may qualify for both. Again, if you or someone you know in Fayette County West Virginia is interested in more information or an application give me a call at 304-250-7627.

Let's see what else.....Oh there is a woman and her son applying to buy the new house SALS built on School Street in Oak Hill. It seems that it is all going to go through. The apartment they live in now is terrible. (Shame on you, landlord). This will be the first home she had had that she owned. They are so excited. They live on a fixed income but their house payment is going to be less than the rent they are paying now. Thanks to a low income loan, they may be homeowners soon. Don't be surprised if in the next newsletter there is a picture of them in front of their new house. I'm keeping fingers crossed that everything goes smoothly.

I have also been helping some with the Regina Three Rivers apartments in Gauley Bridge. At this time, we have 8 apartments rented and we are tak-

ing applications for the remaining 16. There are one bedroom and two bedroom apartments just waiting for tenants. Call if you or someone you know would like an application. The phone number is the same as above. But this time you don't have to live in Fayette County. We welcome people from other counties and even other states. The welcome mat is out.

McDowell Gets Funding for Water Project

by Marcus Wilkes, board chair

My sincere appreciation goes to Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, Region One Planning and Development Director Jason Roberts, and Jeff Johnson, former Region One Director David Cole and everyone else that contributed to supporting the \$200,000 ARC Small Cities Block Grant that McDowell County received towards Phase II of the Elkhorn Water Project. McDowell County is not forgotten.

This is a worthy project, however, its going to take a lot more check signings to establish an infrastructure capable of competing with other communities in this 21st Century.



SALS Board Chair Marcus Wilkes and wife Vanessa with governor Earl Ray Tomblin at the capitol for the Elkhorn water project ceremony. Marcus has served as Mayor of the town of Northfork in McDowell Co.



**Your impact for change can be doubled by our Matching Fund –
but only if we receive your gift soon!**

Thanks to your generosity, the Southern Appalachian Labor School has been able to move forward with many critical priorities for "Constructing Change from the Ground Up" in West Virginia. Your commitment to making a difference is something to celebrate!

You have helped us before and that's why I knew you'd be excited to learn that right now you have the opportunity to **double your impact for change** when you make your tax-deductible contribution today.

To respond to the many urgent challenges facing SALS right now, SALS has established the Year-End Matching Fund to give dedicated friends like you a limited-time opportunity to make an even bigger impact.

Every dollar you give now – up to a total of \$50,000 – will go twice as far to support our work.

I'm counting on dedicated supporters like you to make an impact once again... and this time, your support is twice as powerful. When you make a gift, it will go even farther to construct change from the ground up. And, if you pay taxes in West Virginia and donate at least \$500, we can send you a state tax credit of half the amount.

Your support will help tackle urgent new focus areas that we now have, like our housing factory (Appalachian Modular Homes); AdultBuild for those who need a new career due to "After Coal"; Self-Help Home Rehabilitation, new super foods grown in our gardens, and solar farms on mountain top lands giving new light to the darkness of many.

Time and again we've shown the difference we can make when we work together. With your help, we're making sure SALS can continue to be a beacon of hope for many.

That's why I am asking you to make a generous tax-deductible contribution today. This extraordinary opportunity to double your impact expires soon, and we have very little time to raise all the \$50,000 needed before the deadline. Please respond quickly to qualify for the Matching Fund!

On behalf of everyone at SALS in West Virginia, please accept my sincere appreciation for helping us to **Make A Difference!**

Your Name _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Cell: _____

CONTRIBUTION

To help my impact go twice as far to construct change from the ground up, I am making this tax deductible contribution to the Southern Appalachian Labor School, P. O. Box 127, Kincaid, WV 25119.

_____ \$100 _____ \$250
_____ \$500 _____ Other \$ _____

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

SALS Kincaid Central 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

Terry Black
Peter Wilson

YouthBuild Trainer
Broadcasting Intern

AmeriCorps/VISTA

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

Board Officers

Marcus Wilkes	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

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Linda Dillard	Custodian
Jimmy Adkins	YouthBuild Trainer

Energy Express

Adam Shuemaker, Site Teacher

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.

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

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

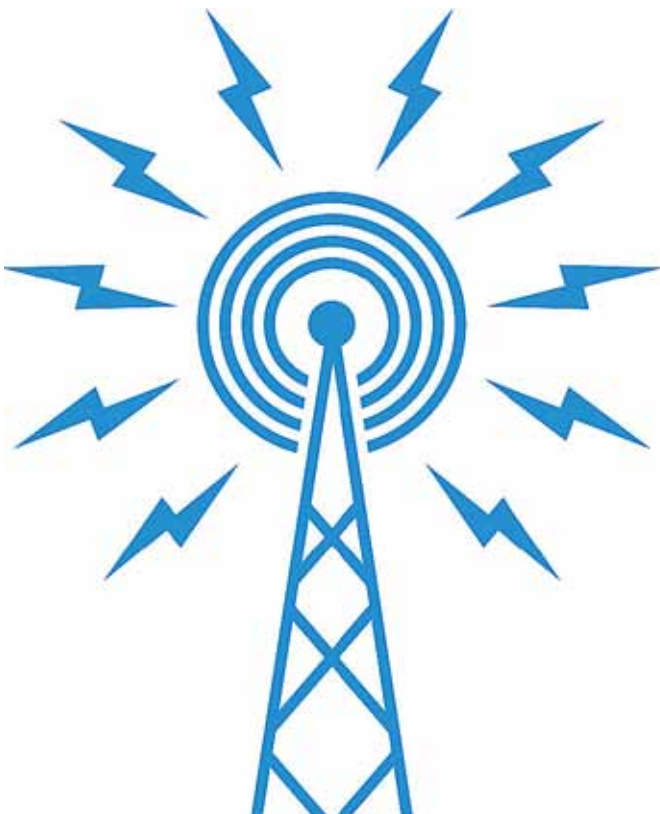
SALS engages in solicitation to support the Southern Appalachian Labor School. WV residents may obtain a summary of our registration and financial documents from the Sec. of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.



*New sign at the SALS Historic Oak Hill School....
inspected by County Commissioner Matt Wender, his dog
Biscuit, and YouthBuild Site Supervisor Terry Black*



*Flyer for the Haunted School House Fund-raiser which
was a very popular Halloween attraction.*



Now Broadcasting: SALS Mountain Radio W-A-G-E 106.5 FM

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