

SALS JOURNAL

*a publication of the
Southern Appalachian Labor School*



Volume 40 Issue 1

www.sals.info

Summer 2017

Summer Programs Promote Nutrition & Reading

by Vickie Mullins, AmeriCorps

Here in Beards Fork, at the SALS Community Center, we conducted our summer programs which started in June and ended in August.

The summer program known as Energy Express, is a six week reading/nutrition program. Not only do we promote reading, but we also feed the participants two meals a day. The kids really enjoy the food since some families can't afford two meals and rely on our staff at SALS to help feed their child. In this program, we serve family-style meals which allows the children to choose from the food items presented on their tables.

We try a variety of colorful foods such as summer yellow squash, kale greens, cherry red toma-

toes, asparagus, summer red strawberries, and grapes. All the fruits and vegetables are grown in our very own community garden. The animals in the friendly farm are quite an enjoyment for the kids to pet, look at, and learn about farm life. The kids also help feeding them. The non-competitive games help keep kids interacting with one another and having fun without competing against each other.

We also had our mobile Summer Food program where we served meals off-site at seven different locations in the area. Last year we incorporated donated books into the program. This has been a popular addition. Each day a child could choose a different book to read and our volunteers also read books to the kids. Your donations keep this going!



Choosing a book to read with lunch



Lunch and read aloud - nutrition for body and mind

Sacrifice for Survival

Marcus Wilkes/SALS Board Chair

West Virginians have difficult choices to make with individual rights, environmental safety, economic security, and health programs all being scrutinized by lawmakers. During this congressional and legislative tenure, there is a solid push to balance budgets amid deficits caused by increased wealth for the top tier of executives, corporate manipulation to guarantee profits, demand for security from individuals who might do us harm, and needed social and education programs dependent upon tax revenue.

Ultimately decisions have to be made if our government is to function properly. Otherwise shutdowns will benefit no one, and bond ratings for the state will be disastrous.

Women's right to make decisions about their health is being compromised on the federal and state level by legislation. Women and their supporters are marching and picketing in this state and around the nation for the legal right to support decisions that might affect their livelihood and sanity, particularly if they are on limited income. Other decisions by women may be related to criminal behavior beyond their control. Will women sacrifice their rights based on moral interpretations and budget cuts?

Property owners, particularly in rural areas might lose their rights to energy companies who want to expand their infrastructure for development. Will property owners sacrifice ownership of their land and mineral rights for the promise of jobs and local development?

Now West Virginia may become a right-to-work state which limits worker's ability to collectively bargain for wages and benefits. Prevailing wage agreements allow corporations to pay workers the minimum amount of wages for construction and development. Corporations can now hire any contractor or workers who are willing to take on an assignment even as they undercut other workers. Such actions seem to push wages down for skilled trade workers. How much will workers sacrifice?

In the early 1980s, the community of Minden in Fayette County, WV was beset by an epidemic of Cancer which impacted a sizeable share of the pop-

ulation. Environmentalists eventually discerned how dumped refuse from a mine equipment re-building shop led to the problem. Apparently as mine equipment was abandoned, discarded pieces began to leak PCB-laden fluids like diesel fluid and antifreeze, while rusting over the generations. Transformer fluids containing PCBs were simply dumped on the ground and ran into Arbuckle Creek. Today PCB- contaminated soil still exist at dangerous levels in Minden even though super fund money was used to clean up the site. Electrification remains in many abandoned mines. The stream protection act and other regulations are being repealed, and the EPA investigators are being eliminated. Another example which had dire consequences is Buffalo Creek. Are communities willing to jeopardize water and environmental health?

No one can dispute the power of coal corporations in the state of West Virginia. The power of collectively bargaining is long past. With control of the legislature, coal companies are guaranteed reduction in coal severance taxes, advantages in bankrupt proceedings, and minimum responsibility for risk. Don Blankenship got one year in federal prison for the Upper Big Branch disaster. Workers accept cuts in benefits with no guarantees when a company goes bankrupt, while executives get million dollar severance packages.

Prisons are overcrowded and correctional staff is underpaid. Recent legislation to address the drug epidemic suggests that more people will be incarcerated for longer periods of time. Counties are hard pressed to pay bills to keep offenders. The cost to keep offenders is likely to increase with rehabilitation

continued on page ten

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.

Send to:

Gary R. Zuckett, Editor,
SALS Journal,

POB 127 Kincaid, WV 25119.

Phone 304-250-7627

www.sals.info

United Assoc. of Labor Education
LABOR DONATED

Director's Report

by John David

The message to all of our friends and supporters is basic. The time has come to "Protect SALS". On all fronts, we face significant financial and programmatic challenges. Between now and the end of the current federal fiscal year, the scramble is on for the continuation of resources to hang on a little longer; as one looks beyond, the prognosis dims.

Ironically, as protecting SALS becomes critical, the people we serve have escalating need. Coal miners and their families are unemployed; young adults face no future; drugs are rampant. Fayette County, a key area for us and the location of our operational base, remains a FEMA Federal Disaster Area due to the vast flooding last year that killed people and damaged hundreds of homes. People are hungry and undernourished. Updated census data reveals that the unemployment rate of young adults in our targeted zip codes exceeds 30%. To counter this reality, SALS remains a beacon of hope facing a struggle to survive.

Without question, continuation of SALS is dependent on two basic pillars. One is that friends and supporters like you will dig deep and share more with us. This is important not only because programs we rely upon to provide direct services are vulnerable, but also because we rely on those programs to compensate staff, even if only at VISTA/AmeriCorps "living allowance" rates. Furthermore, while I will continue my volunteer service as long as I am able, preparation for succession has become essential.

The second is that we must explore new directions. As many of you know, SALS has undergone several phases of transition during our 42 years. The time has come for another. One new focus is to explore the development of social enterprises, and several are under consideration. One is to ramp up our ability to be a destination magnet, using the Historic Oak Hill School as a hostel for those who desire to visit the New River Gorge area and/or help us. In 2018, for example, SALS will partner with Bridge-Valley Community and Technical College and become a Roads Scholar site. Overall, this development will broaden our training to include culinary arts and hospitality management as well as innovatively utilize our assets. Another will remove the age cap on our



This set-up crew arrived in late June to prepare for a two week stint with over 100 volunteers. Next to SALS Director John David on the left is Dave Coryell, World Director of the International Christian Endeavor movement which operates in over 50 nations. By September, SALS will have hosted over 800 volunteers.

YouthBuild model, providing Home Builder's Institute Pre-Apprenticeship credentials to transitioned adults, including coal miners, and establishing The Shelter Company to employ them on a permanent crew to repair dilapidated coal camp or storm damaged houses. A third will establish Appalachian Modular Homes in a former Montgomery college building that once focused on training people how to service mine equipment.

Like we all know, ideas are cheap and come with a high failure rate. But the failure rate is higher if one does nothing. Thus, the driving strategy becomes tied to old sayings such as "Try This" and "Hope Springs Eternal".

As you read the other articles penned by those on the SALS Team, you will hopefully be inspired by our breadth of activities and the passion of those involved who are working together. Perfection is not our objective; the empowerment of the disenfranchised to be a "Force for Good" and "Make A Difference" is what are about. This alternative to desperation and destitution is our beacon of light for tomorrow. As you reflect and age, put SALS in your will so you can be among those who "Protect SALS" during upcoming troubled times ---- as well as send support now to help us navigate current surging waters. We need and appreciate your help.

Be Well, Do Good Things, and Stay in Touch!

Changing Lives One Rehab At A Time

by Lisa Manley/Housing Specialist

This has been a very busy time for housing.

We are constantly working to get people qualified for three housing assistance programs:

REHABs: Self-Help program: and Disaster Relief. Each one of these programs have different guidelines and requirements. Sometimes it makes me want to pull my hair out. It is a very slow process, but in the end when we have the all of the paperwork done and crossed all of the T's, dotted the I's, and have the homes repaired, its very rewarding. The homeowner's are happy, safe, warm and dry (since a lot of the REHABs need a new roof and heat system) and we breathe a sigh of relief that we have helped make someone's life better.

The waiting list for REHABs is so long and we can only do 10 a grant period so the list seems to get longer every year. There are so many people who need help with repairs. The SALS slogan is "Constructing Change from the Ground Up". I think I am going to also use the slogan Changing Lives one REHAB at a time.

A great program we have worked with for years is Group Workcamp. This year we started early with locating and sending in applications for home repairs. Some of the residents are elderly and cannot paint their home or they may need a wheelchair ramp to get to the doctor.

Homeowners really appreciate not only the work, but getting to know the volunteers. The volunteers bring their own lunches and often bring extra to share with them and sit and talk. It means a lot to have so many teenagers care enough to come and help the elderly and low-income residents. There were over 400 volunteers signed up to come into the Cedar Grove area to paint, build porches and wheelchair ramps. Approximately 68 sites were 'spruced up' or improved.

I also take care of the EFSP (emergency food and shelter program). With this SALS can pay on utility bills, buy food for the food pantry, and give out emergency food to those with a referral form from DHHR. We also assemble food boxes and give
SALS Journal



Global Volunteers pose for a joyous goodbye picture after a week-long stay at SALS doing home repairs.

them out for Thanksgiving and Christmas to help some families have a happy holiday dinner.

YouthBuild News

by Kathryn South

The SALS YouthBuild program has been very busy this year. Recently, four more of our youth received their TASC or GED certificate, so congrats to Jessie Parker, Derek Crouse, Eric Hodge and Jonathan Swafford. Great jobs everyone and lots more to come from these talented folks. Jessie Parker graduated from the program and is now a VISTA serving in and around the Fayette county area. Jessie has already taken on lots of tasks that shows her drive and willingness to learn how the organization works and serves the people of Fayette County.

One of the monumental jobs was to tackle the Oak Hill summer foods program where she coordinated over a hundred meals a day and assisted volunteers with delivering the meals to four sites in the Oak Hill area. The program lasted for six weeks. Our Beards Fork site operated the same program but serving the Montgomery and Smithers area by feeding children in those communities.

Two of our youth attended the YouthBuild Young Leaders conference in DC. Leland Lowe and Jordan Gray spent two days in DC meeting other youth from sites all over the US and learning more about what YouthBuild does in other states.

Artie Mullins and I attended a two-day conference in DC for the mentoring program. SALS has

eleven youth enrolled in the mentoring program and some of our staff and older youth are mentors for these young people. We are hoping that for the youth to have a caring adult who listens and understands the concerns of the youth will make a big difference in his or her lives and then that young person will mentor someone else and make a difference in that person's life.

Four of our youth tried out for the driving test. Out of the four one person passed the written test, 'congrats' Na'il Walton! Now he'll need to take the actual driving test so that he'll be able to drive to job sites and drive his family members where they need to travel in the area. In the next few weeks other youth will take the test again and hopefully pass.

Forty youth took the food handlers test this month so that is another certificate that each youth can put in their portfolio for job searches when he or she is ready to move forward to another phase of their lives. We are all working with Dr. Doyle in getting all the youth up to date with immunizations that are needed to keep them healthier and "better ready" to fight off any medical problems that could crop up.

We are having a busy summer with lots of work doing repairs and on residents' houses with the help of many volunteers who travel to our site each year. Over 800 volunteers were with us in June to work on houses and meet residents of our area. Our community benefits greatly from these programs that bring folks here from all over the country and these volunteers get a better understanding of what West Virginia is all about.

SALS YouthBuild Graduation

by Alisha Young

On March 11-16th SALS was well represented in Washington, D.C. for several reasons. During the first two days SALS sent two of their YouthBuild members to the national YouthBuild USA Caucus where they learned different skills and took several workshops on ways to empower their rural community while helping others.

The last four days of their trip was the Conference of Young Leaders. At the COYL, a SALS YouthBuild graduate, yours truly, worked with the

SALS Journal



Vickie Smith assists applicant at a Housing Counseling class at SALS Historic Oak Hill School

Founder Dorothy Stoneman and current CEO John Valverde of YouthBuild USA and was involved in several workshops and leadership events.

Some of the conference workshops included: Financial Capability & Leadership for Young Leaders; Stronger Through College & Career Success; Being Strong and Staying Drug Free; and Power Personal Presentations. Each workshop offered something for the youth to learn, build on and take back to their home state YouthBuild programs. The Youth were chosen to attend as a reward for their success and leadership and I represented SALS as a youth mentor.

The last two days of the event were the most important of all. Over 100 YouthBuild USA students from the nation and some international students and staff stormed Capitol Hill to let their local Senators and Representatives know how important YouthBuild is to their communities.

The students from West Virginia got the opportunity to visit U.S. Rep. Evan Jenkins, Senator Shelley Moore Capito, and Senator Joe Manchin's offices.

Members of the Southern Appalachian Labor School and YouthBuild North Central told their story with a sincere heart and voice about how YouthBuild helped them rebuild their lives. It is a story that is usually unheard in the halls of Congress that sometimes youth are unable to be helped without programs such as these.



STEVE KEENAN/FOR THE REGISTER-HERALD

Christian Endeavor volunteers Blake Dierkes, left, Katie Eckert and Sarah Mansuetti work outside Fred Gray's Fayette County home last week. They were placing brackets on 2x4s to erect a drop ceiling.

Volunteers help with housing repairs in Fayette and Kanawha

“IT'S IMPORTANT TO HELP OTHERS GET A STEP UP”

By Steve Keenan
FOR THE REGISTER-HERALD

Fred Gray received some welcome visitors to his Fayette County home last week.

Twenty volunteers (13 youths, seven adults) from Sanctuary United Methodist Church in North Wales, Pa. — participating in Christian Endeavor's C.E. Mission Weeks — accomplished various needed repairs to Gray's house in recent days.

“I've been here all my life,” Gray, 74, said of his abode near Glen Jean. “I'm still sleeping in the room I was raised up in.”

Sitting on his porch Thursday, Gray said he was thankful for the Christian Endeavor crew members — who work with YouthBuild representatives from the Southern Appalachian Labor School — as they went about their mission.

“They're doing great work,” he said. “I really appreciate it.”

“There was no way I could have done it. It's a God-send.”

Youth leader Lisa Nash, visiting West Virginia for the second time with Christian Endeavor, says her reasons for participating are pretty straightforward. “It's important to help others get a step up.”

Nash, who works at a hospital

says her job allows her time off to complete mission work.

“You grow stronger as a church ... and get closer with people,” chimed in Meg Gartner, 16, a student at North Penn High School in Lansdale, Pa.

The projects help participants develop camaraderie and teamwork skills, too, she said. “You get to learn a lot about yourself.”

In her two previous trips into the mission field for similar projects, Gartner also picked up skills she can use in her own life. For example, she recently helped her father

VOLUNTEERS - 2A



STEVE KEENAN/FOR THE REGISTER-HERALD

Bella Potts, left, Janis Zimmerman-Fahy and Sydney Stark work inside the house. The next wave of volunteers will tackle tasks such as interior and exterior painting, weatherization and porch and wheelchair ramp construction.

VOLUNTEERS

Continued from 1A

put in a floor in the basement of their family home.

Jim Fahy, a member of Sanctuary UMC and one of the group leaders, said some of the same members worked with SALS to help refurbish homes in the Montgomery area two years ago. Last summer, they went to Brunswick County, N.C.

According to Fahy, the involved youth are required to raise \$150 each to help finance things from their end.

The money that was collected through such events as a car wash and singing Valentines.

Young or old, Fahy says mission participation results in "a sense of accomplishment."

"The smile on people's faces that somebody actually gives a damn" makes it worthwhile, he said.

Fahy said the Christian Endeavor group embraces the chance "to support SALS and the community down here. We're Americans; let's get this done here first."

A group of volunteers from the Akron Grace, Pa., church was also in the area as part of the Christian Endeavor mission, Janis Zimmerman-Fahy

said.

Zimmerman-Fahy said the Sanctuary UMC group spent its off-time while in West Virginia staging evening programs at the SALS Historic Oak Hill School in Oak Hill, where they stayed, in addition to having some fun by partaking in activities like a visit to the New River Gorge Bridge and bowling at Pinheads in Oak Hill.

•••

Vickie Smith, SALS housing/construction manager, said Christian Endeavor volunteers and local YouthBuild crews have made a difference by making improvements to several homes in Fayette County in recent days.

"The need here was just astronomical," Smith said. "Our elderly are living on such low incomes they have to make choices."

Other improvements last week included a house in Deepwater at which volunteers built a concrete landing and new steps to make it possible for ambulance crews to safely reach a handicapped child.

The Christian Endeavor project involved SALS Housing, United Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh and USDA-RD, according to SALS director Dr. John David.

Two weeks ago, a group of 25 volunteers from Grace Church in Nyack, N.Y., visited and worked to rehab homes.

Beginning Sunday, July 16, another wave of volunteers — 410 in total — will be welcomed by SALS and Rebuilding Together for home repairs, David said. Those volunteers, representing Group Cares through its Workcamp mission, will make free repairs to 70 homes of elderly, low-income or handicapped residents of the Upper Kanawha Valley area.

Volunteers will tackle tasks such as interior and exterior painting, weatherization and porch and wheelchair ramp construction.

Group Workcamps will stage at Cedar Grove Community School in Kanawha County. "This service to the community would be impossible without the wonderful cooperation of Kanawha County Schools and the staff at the school," said SALS' Lisa Manley.

To apply for assistance with the upcoming UKV project, contact SALS@citynet.net, call the SALS answering machine at 304-465-9732, or write SALS, PO Box 127, Kincaid, WV 25119.

In 2017, SALS will host over 800 volunteers to work side-by-side with the YouthBuild program, David said.

REGISTER-HERALD
BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA

SALS Kincaid Office News

by Ruth Lanham

WOW! Is our office ever busy. It seems that we are always doing grant applications. There is no peak season anymore as we prepare grants weekly. We have recently submitted two proposals to The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, for Energy Express, which is a summer program for children, three applications to the WV Housing Development Fund and two others at another agency.

We are still searching for grants on housing for low income families. The need is tremendous. The Regina Apartments are ready for applicants with several apartments still open.

A big thanks to the two YouthBuild members and their friend for their help to clean up our office space. We have been so busy that we don't get a chance to clean as we would like to. We look forward to them coming back when time allows. Our YouthBuild members are working hard on getting their GEDs and learning construction skills. We have got some great folks in the program. Some have received their GEDs already and the others are working hard to get theirs.

Thanks to Vickie for picking up the check writing to pay our bills so that I can focus on some of the things I am behind on. At this time the work is overwhelming. Our phones ring constantly with people wanting our services. We have lots of folks who just drop in for different things.

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.

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 need of some good vehicles so that we can keep everything going. We have tax credits available for such donations. 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 families who need furnishings such as a washer, stove, dryer, or refrigerator. 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. If you would like to donate to SALS you can call our office at 304-250-7627. Thank you in advance for your kindness to your community. God will bless you richly for your kindness.

Transition to a SALS VISTA

by Jessi Parker

Hello, my name is Jessi Parker and I'm very excited to start my first year as a VISTA. I have been working with the YouthBuild students, as well as helping out with the mental toughness part. I've also got to work with various volunteers. In April, I graduated with my GED. Before becoming a VISTA, I was a YouthBuild student. While I was a YouthBuild student I got my driver license, as well as my GED. Now I am looking into some different colleges in my area. I am also looking forward to this year and can't wait to see, what new adventures are ahead and are in store for me.

Living the Dream at Regina Three Rivers

by Brenda Warrick/VISTA

All is well at our Gauley Bridge Regina Apartments. We have been working diligently to fill vacant apartments and I am happy to say we are almost there. I you know anyone looking for a good living space see the flyer in this newsletter.

Our YouthBuild guys (Shongo, Zack and Dallas) have been doing an excellent job with repairs and assisting volunteer groups. To be honest, they are the best: never complaining and getting the job done before being asked.

Regina is definitely turning around and getting a good name. We need to also thank Ed Warfield and Jerry Humphreys for installing security cameras. Great job guys! Also, a big thanks to John David for standing behind the project and making Regina a success!

Hopefully we can make a big difference and set a standard for others in Gauley Bridge. Huge thanks to Chief Police Pat Baisi for all the back-up he provides. Fantastic team work with all these folks. Above all, the tenants have been excellent in bringing about these changes.



REGINA APARTMENTS

- **NEWLY RENOVATED — New Owners and Management**
- **One and Two Bedroom Units Available**
- **Rent Based On Income!! — Vouchers Accepted**
- **Includes Water, Sewage, and Trash**
- **Central Heat and Air Conditioning — Energy Efficient**
- **On-Site Laundry Facility and Playground Area**
- **Located close to Downtown Gauley Bridge**
- **Security Cameras On Site**
- **LIMITED UNITS AVAILABLE — SO CALL NOW !!!**

For More Info Call: Vickie: 304-640-3792

Brenda: 304-890-6094 OR Michelle: 304-587-2034



southern
appalachian
labor school

sals.info
ConstructingChangeAnd BridgingGaps.com

Email: ReginaThreeRiverApartments@gmail.com

Office On Site or Call: 304-465-9732

Constructing Change

by Vickie Smith/Construction Manager

These last couple of months have been quite overwhelming. We have been busy completing work write-ups and gathering file information such as income verifications for flood relief, which meant several trips in bad weather. Rehabs and our new self-help project are underway also. Self-help requires weekly monitoring of self-help projects.

I am now also writing checks for the organization's bills. This in itself is not very demanding but this past years' health issues have slowed me down drastically. Chemotherapy treatments every 3 weeks and radiation 5 days a week for 6 weeks have definitely taken its toll on my stamina. On my weakest days the checks were a blessing as I took many breaks. Well, at least a few, as John is always in a hurry for everything.

We sold the house that SALS built on School Street as soon as it was finished. The family is extremely pleased and excited to have a safe, warm and mold free home. They spent years living in sub-standard rental housing. This is the best part of my job. I get all the hugs and thank you's...I visit them often as being new homeowners they have many new things that need explained to them.

I have held many housing counseling classes over the past three months. The result has been that we have assisted several individuals on steps to clear up their credit problems and prepare them to buy a home.

I managed to get some tax credit items for the organization. We are hoping to utilize these donations to further the goals of the organization in changing our community one task at a time.

Keeping Track of AmeriCorps

Barbara Painter, AmeriCorps Director

Wow, it is already newsletter time again. Where does time go? It seems like just yesterday was Christmas. I have been very busy working with the AmeriCorps program these past few months, it takes more time than I realize to keep all items updated. Several of our youth have earned an educational award and some have even started on their second. I am so proud of these youth! We've had many of our youth earn their GED, and several have obtained SALS Journal

their driver's license. They have excelled in so many areas! Way to go!

I worked with the 2 young people chosen to go to the YouthBuild Rural Caucus. We did several webinars and telephone calls with national staff. We had several meetings and trainings locally plus finding outfits for the youth to wear to our nation's capitol. Both youth attended the Rural Caucus but were sent home early due to the weather and the flight situation.

We have continued to work with Southwestern Community Action to make a smooth transition with the former Experience Works Program. One of our workers, Robin Workman finished her time in the program in May. Our other worker at the Historic Oak Hill School has found permanent employment at West Virginia State. They will both be missed.

I continue to work a few hours each month at the Heritage House in Beckley as the Information and Referral Specialist. They are a lovely group of folks that need to find sources for items needed.

The Food Pantry at the Historic Oak Hill School is currently serving in excess of 400 individual families and I fear that the poverty level in this area is increasing, not decreasing. Despite all these challenges, I hope that everyone has a lovely summer.

Accent Education Program

by Charlene Newkirk, Accent Education Coordinator

Another school year came to an end which means we have wrapped up another After-School Program. We hated to see it come to an end. The kids will miss coming as much as we'll miss them. It's been a successful year for the program. In January, we celebrated MLK Jr. Day by having the kids choose a little article on Dr. King to read aloud and after all the kids had read their article a presentation was giving explaining the Civil Rights Movement and how it impacts lives today.

In February, we celebrated Black History Month by having one child read an article about Black History each day of the month and at the end of the month a presentation was given about the contributions black people have made to this country. Many achievements made by blacks aren't taught in our public schools and the kids were excited to learn of the items, by a black inventor, that we use daily.

Housework heroes



Local

Charleston Gazette-Mail, Wednesday, July 19, 2017

CHRIS DORST | Gazette-Mail photos

ABOVE: High School students including Maya Blashka (left), of South Carolina, Benjamin Drews, of Texas, Mark Caster, of Indiana, Haley Hagen, of Wisconsin, and Ella Holt, of Missouri, work Tuesday to replace boards and paint the porch of Melissa Johnson's house on Lewis Street in Cedar Grove. The 350 students are in the Kanawha Valley this week with 50 adults as part of the Colorado-based national Group Workcamps program, which has them working on 58 home repair projects. The home repair projects are co-sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Labor School.

RIGHT: Gabriel Baker, 2, looks out his front door Tuesday to see the high schoolers replacing boards and painting the front porch of his Lewis Street home.



Survival, continued from page two

services over extended, if offered at all.

Now health care programs are being debated as to who should be covered under new laws. Although miners are likely to receive health benefits, they are likely to lose pension plans invested in as part of their employment package. Medicaid recipients are likely to be the major losers since they are the weakest group with limited representation, and can be marginalized even more. Individuals with pre-existing conditions may be at the mercy of insurance carriers. Medicare recipients should be wary of incidents that can be interpreted as waste or fraud, lest this program might be restricted also.

With the possibility of tourism and recreation being one of the solutions to economic diversity in this state, how will this enterprise fit with environmental regulations and over site being reduced? Economic prosperity might be compromised if streams are polluted or land contaminated.

Our families are leaving the state looking for economic opportunities, cultural enrichment, and education for a 21st Century livelihood. West Virginia is gripped with an enormous debt and competing interests who presume to know how to move forward.

However, the beneficiaries are those entities who use the energy resources of this great state to build massive fortunes. Citizens of this state must find a way to improve the infrastructure for healthy living and economic development.

Since current trends rely on conservative principles, trust in corporate investments must lay the foundation. One thing is very clear; there will be sacrifice if families are to survive.

Ready, Set, Plow!

by: Kenna Bass and William Austin, VISTA volunteers

Alas!! The season has come for us to put our plans to action and get started gardening. After a few meetings with community members, we know what vegetables and plant and have purchased the greenhouse. With the help of volunteers, we've made progress in cleaning and making repairs on the hoop house and removing the old raised beds. We still must repair/replace the current raised beds, build new raised beds, and plow an area for conventional gardening.

However, we're on schedule. Already, we have the greenhouse assembled and have all raised beds

repaired and replaced.

Now we are having the ground plowed, shelves for the greenhouse built, and Earth Boxes placed near the walking track.

Besides gardening, we have plans to enlarge the yard of the chicken coop and finish the duck pond. We're thinking about planting a lot in Kincaid with corn, tomatoes, green beans, kale and mustard greens, bell peppers, and cucumbers.

It's going to be fun!



Boy Scout Jamboree volunteers make repairs at SALS

SALS Hosts 600 Boy Scouts

SALS hosted 600 Boy Scouts during the National Boy Scout Jamboree in Fayette County in July. The Scouts were camped for the week at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve near the New River Gorge.

The agency coordinating the Boy Scout community service activities was the West Virginia Civilian Conservation Corps. Scouts volunteered their time working on three SALS projects located at Regina Three Rivers Apartments in Gauley Bridge, SALS Community Center in Beards Fork, and the SALS Historic Oak Hill School.

In Gauley Bridge, the scouts worked on creating an outdoor picnic area and gardens at the apartment complex. In Beards Fork, the scouts repaired fencing and upgraded the community center complex. In Oak Hill, the scouts helped reorganize the contents of the Historic Oak Hill School.

At each site, the scouts will arrived 40 per day for 5 full days, with each day being a different contingent.

According to Director, John David, SALS participated during the previous National Jamboree and was highly appreciative of the generous volunteer help that improved its community facilities.

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

Jimmy Adkins
 Terry Black
 Steven Maynard

YouthBuild Trainer
 YouthBuild Trainer
 YouthBuild Trainer

AmeriCorps/VISTA

Austin Flint	AmeriCorps
Vickie Mullins	AmeriCorps
Latoya Ray	AmeriCorps
James Harvey	VISTA
William Austin	VISTA
Kenna Bass	VISTA
Brenda Warrick	VISTA
Ed Warfield	VISTA
Jesse Parker	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

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

Kathryn South*	Program Support mustangkathryn@gmail.com
Vickie Smith*	Construction Manager vickiesmith1958@gmail.com
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
Barbara Painter	AmeriCorps/Green Coordinator bobbie761957@gmail.com
Sid Yoho	Heavy Construction
Linda Dillard	Custodian

Energy Express

Paul Baker, 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.

SALS Journal
POB 127, Kincaid,
WV 25119

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Kincaid WV 25119
Permit # 3



Visit us on the web: www.sals.info

SALS Mountain Radio

by Ed Warfield and Eric Keith

The past couple of months, we have been researching various services and companies that host Radio Streaming on the world wide web. Recently we were able to go to our website designer and learn how to use Word Press, our web page's platform. This will allow us to build pages, posts, and links on our SALS.INFO website.

The Radio Station WAGE Radio 106.5 is based out of the Historic Oak Hill School located in uptown Oak Hill. Our goal is to get everything up and running in order to solicit underwriters for programs that help us to purchase the necessary equipment needed for day to day operations. Anyone can donate to the radio station on the SALS website by simply pressing the "DONATE" button.

Any financial help is greatly appreciated. We also extend an open invitation to anyone wanting to be a guest on our show...."Unheard Voices".

For more information call: 304-465-4246.

SALS Journal

***Now Broadcasting:
SALS Mountain Radio
W-A-G-E 106.5 FM
Committed to WAGE the Fight
for a Living Wage and
other Humane Priorities***

***Donate now to help us expand our
programming! <http://bit.ly/28SlvP9>
We also have a WAGE RADIO
Facebook page at WAGE RADIO 106.5FM!***

Make sure you're getting our E-Mailings!
Send a note to John David - jdavid@citynet.net
and
Madeline Lanham - madelinelanham@hotmail.com
with the subject 'Add me to List'
to get our electronic communications too!