

# SALS JOURNAL

*a publication of the  
Southern Appalachian Labor School*



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## A New Year Message of Thanks

*by Marcus Wilkes, SALS Board Chair*

### What We're Thankful For!

After more than 40 years of service to southern West Virginia, we take this moment to reflect on the contributions of some board members and staff who are no longer with us. How do we ever replace their dedication to just not changing lives of under-served individuals, but creating opportunities for growth as well?

How will we ever replace Rick Wadsworth, coming to southern West Virginia as an AmeriCorps volunteer and picking up the lantern for Health Care for All about 30 years ago. His analyses helped SALS to jump many hurdles in our quest to serve those people who fall through the cracks of the economic safety net.

How will we ever replace Helen M. Powell, joining SALS over 30 years ago, fresh from carrying the lantern for Black Lung Benefits for coal miners, and assuming the leadership role of our organization? Her light guided us through murky waters in order for us to educate workers and supporters on the rights of workers, and promoted fairness, not only in the workplace, but everyday life.

How will we ever replace Linda Meade, who came on board for a short time in her short lifespan over 30 years ago to pick up the lantern for environmental justice? Linda always reaffirmed our appreciation for the ecological value of our land, and fought the good fight to encourage public policy for protecting our right to fresh air, clean drinking water, and love for the animals in beautiful southern West Virginia.

How will we ever replace Lucian Randall, who picked up a wheel barrel and marched on behalf of people in a community who were stricken with cancer due to lack of concern over abandoned industrial sites? Or Mike South, who helped lead the struggle for Black Lung Benefits for afflicted coal miners?

There are so many others.

I am thankful for those leaders that worked on behalf of SALS guiding principle of serving all that are hurt due to economic and social injustice.

I am thankful for the board members and staff who picked up a lantern to promote decent housing for people in our service area. I am thankful for the Global Volunteers, college students, church groups, and other service organizations that come to Fayette County every year to help us in home repair work.

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*Three Healthcare Activists circa 1992  
L to R - Gary Zuckett, Courtney Morrow,  
and recently passed Rick Wadsworth*

# Who is Doing What to Whom When and Why

by Dr. John P. David,  
reprinted from Charleston Gazette-Mail 12-20-2017

For West Virginia, those who are talking about necessary economic diversification and transformation are probably on the right track. Those who are betting on coal and tax reforms may be disappointed. For example, the recently announced, although not clearly defined, mega deal with China Energy focuses only on petrochemical and shale gas development.

While policy shifts may have bounced coal back somewhat, it remains unclear whether this is a blip that will last longer than a Presidential term. The head of American Electric Power has already made it clear that the shift away from steam coal is not reversible and even the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is moving in that direction. Coal brokers and analysts tend to believe that the reversal of the Clean Power Plan will have little impact on domestic coal usage. The biggest current market is coal for export, mainly China, India, and the Pacific Basin. Coal operators like Robert Murray, who may have purchased Consol and other coal assets unwisely, are betting on exports. But that angle may be a short term gear up to grab a decent return while the market has improved in order to pare down financial liabilities or snare a short term easy bonanza, as coal moguls may do with Frasure Creek in Fayette County.

On many fronts, China has become key to almost everything. According to Nathaniel Taplin writing in the Wall Street Journal, China's coal power production is going negative and "drives to cut capacity in electricity intensive industries like aluminum and steel aren't going away, meaning another structural step down in industrial power demand over coming years is likely". This will occur since China is investing heavily in alternative energy sources even though mitigated temporarily by more imports caused by a reduction of imported coal from North Korea due to United Nations sanctions. Xizhou Zhau, an energy analyst in Beijing, says China's coal spike will be over by the mid-2020's. India will continue to use coal beyond then but from its own reserves.

What is equally or more startling with the China connection is the gigantic increase in deficit financing that will result from the U. S. federal tax reform plan.

Foreign governments now own much of the U. S. federal debt – China's amount alone has increased more than 15 times to the massive sum of \$1.5 trillion last year. The impact of this reality may greatly exceed the potential impact of Russia's involvement in the American political system. One can expect the amount owned overseas to continue to rise as the U.S. deficit increases, as projected in the new tax plan.

The bottom line is that the U.S. is no longer owned by Americans. Basically, at any time, debt holders world-wide can choose not to renew, thereby holding Americans and the U.S. economy hostage. Furthermore, behind the scenes foreign influence in the U.S. economy is growing. Even professional basketball, a long-time American domestic sport, is becoming foreign. A China firm just paid \$1.3 billion for a 49% stake in the Brooklyn Nets.

To make matters more revealing, there is mounting evidence that the proposed negative impact in the tax package is significantly underestimated. According to the Penn-Wharton Budget Project, the tax change that admittedly will cost \$1.5 trillion over a decade will continue to "increase the long-term deficit in the years following". As noted by Kent Smetters, a veteran of Bush's Treasury Department and the Congressional Budget Office, the tax overhaul is "designed to game the system with phase-ins and phase-outs"....and Penn-Wharton

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

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# Directors Report

by John David

SALS is facing a critical challenge. Key grants that create opportunities for our young adults to move up to a new economic environment have disappeared. At the same time, the need for what we do is increasing.

Growing older can be a wonderful thing. We should be wiser and more experienced. We should have more time for family and friends. Unfortunately, that's not true for everyone. Many around us face serious problems like hunger, financial difficulties, being insecure in their homes, and the despair that comes from loneliness and isolation. Many have to deal with the loss of their home, their spouse, and their sense of purpose in life.

Perhaps more important for us is the loss of many of our young adults like Kenny Price and Jeff Mullins; the loss of Board Members like Helen M. Powell, Sister Clara Lill, Eunice Dangerfield, and just a few short months ago, Rick Wadsworth; also staff like George Hensley, Ron Yellets, Jackie Asbury, and Gary Warrick. They all made major contributions to what we have accomplished. And this transition is not the end; it is the beginning.

SALS has reached the moment when it must move into a new phase. For that reason, ideas like establishing Appalachian Modular Homes as a social enterprise with BridgeValley Community and Technical College on the former West Virginia Tech Campus are being considered. The challenge is whether we can take SALS, built by many, and propel it into what is needed for tomorrow. To do that, we need your generous support to "Protect SALS".

Your contribution to "Protect SALS" permits us to reach out to people in need and help improve the quality of their lives. **Your voluntary support helps us do this, thanks to our programs that work to:**

**Prevent Hunger:** People are at risk of going hungry, forced to skip meals, buy poor-quality food, or choose between paying for medicines or groceries. SALS has two pantries and distributes food.

**Fight Poverty:** People lack adequate financial resources to meet all of their basic

needs. To address these financial hardships, we fight for the rights of workers, provide crucial job training and placement programs, and help people manage their limited incomes to make ends meet.

**Ensure Adequate Housing:** People cannot afford safe, adequate housing. SALS Housing has repair, rehab, and new construction programs.

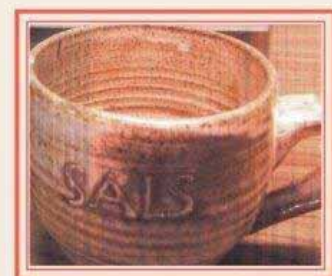
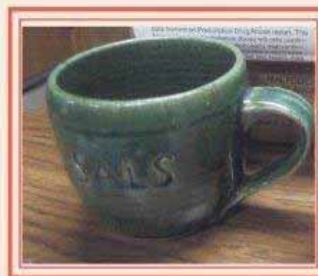
**Preserve Academic Achievement:** Five elementary schools in our area closed. SALS provides Accent Education after school and summer school programs for "at promise" children in a large rural service area.

**Build Community:** People are experiencing isolation, a major cause of poor health, drug abuse, and anger. SALS helps "keep hope alive", create self-esteem, and re-build community.

As we look ahead, we look back on 40 years of constructing change from the ground up. With your support, we will make it to 50. If we come together, I am confident that we can "Make A Difference" for the next decade. Please give us a hand and your heart, knowing that "United we Stand, Divided we Fall".

## Help SALS help vulnerable people in southern WV

**& As a thank you, we're offering this beautiful handcrafted mug.**



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IF YOU CAN AFFORD TO SUPPORT THE CHARITABLE WORK OF SALS WITH A TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT OF \$50 OR MORE TODAY, WE'LL SEND YOU A WONDERFUL GIFT: A SALS COFFEE MUG THAT IS A COLLECTOR'S POTTERY PIECE CRAFTED AND SIGNED BY BOARD MEMBER JIM HORES.

GROWING OLDER CAN BE A WONDERFUL THING. WE SHOULD BE WISER AND MORE EXPERIENCED. WE SHOULD HAVE MORE TIME FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S NOT TRUE FOR EVERYONE. MANY AROUND US FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS LIKE HUNGER, FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, BEING INSECURE IN THEIR HOMES, AND THE DESPAIR THAT COMES FROM LONELINESS AND ISOLATION. MANY HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE LOSS OF THEIR HOME, THEIR SPOUSE, AND THEIR SENSE OF PURPOSE IN LIFE.

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YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO "PROTECT SALS" PERMITS US TO REACH OUT TO PEOPLE IN NEED AND HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIVES, THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS THAT FEED PEOPLE, FIND JOB TRAINING, REHAB AND REPAIR PEOPLE'S HOUSES, AND PROVIDE AFTERSCHOOL EXPERIENCES FOR KIDS.



# YouthBuild News

*by Kathryn South*

Since we last went to press, lots of things have been done. Ten new members joined our program and eight finished Mental Toughness to join our other youth.

SALS has participated in safe training for youth that included Mentoring classes for our youth who are in that group.

We are still trying to schedule CPR and First Aid for our staff and youth.

Two of our graduates are taking electrical classes at Fayette Institute of Technology. I attended a day session at Tamarack for Good Jobs for West Virginia sponsored by "Strong Mountain Communities". There were many good ideas for jobs in West Virginia including Hemp Farming and using abandoned mine lands for various ventures.

The staff and youth attended two days of training with Xavier Walter who is a leading weatherization expert and works with Energy Efficient WV (EEWV.org). He is focused on programs to assist with saving energy for homeowners and business. One of our new YouthBuild recruits, who is also in the mentoring program, is a second generation YouthBuild member. His mother was a YouthBuild member in 2001 and now works as a manager at a local restaurant. So, SALS has now been around long enough with YouthBuild to assist a mother and a child who have needed help with education and other services that we have offered.

## Constructing Change

*by Vickie Smith, Construction Manager*

This has been a very busy year. Lots of the dreaded paperwork for our grants. Many forms, income verifications, e-mails, write-ups, bids, sub-contractors, and looking at homes for rehabilitation or that may be donated.

Lots of meetings with funders and of course that also means training. I even managed to spend a week in Philadelphia for housing counseling.

The Historic Oak Hill School is starting to return to normal. Floors being stripped, pictures going up. We're trying to soften the concrete and steel. One day the old building will shine.

We did very well with our tax credits and we were fortunate enough to be allotted more credits.

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These credits really help the organization in many ways. The building materials we receive are used wherever possible to make family homes safer and warmer. Other items such as mowers are used by the organization to maintain our grounds. So if anyone has items that can be valued at \$500.00 or more, please call our office at 304-465-9732 and leave a message. We will be glad to pick items up and work out the tax credits for you.

Our new YouthBuild group is off to a great start. We are still recruiting members who need to finish their education and are interested in learning some trades. It's a great way to move forward and reach for the stars. Stop by the Historic Oak Hill School and pick up an application today.

Let's make the next year a great one!!!

## AmeriCorps, and More

*by Barbara Painter, AmeriCorps Director*

We have been renting the school gym for cheerleader practice as they practiced for a big competition! It is exciting to watch these young ladies work for something they enjoy so much! It makes my heart feel young again.

I continue working with the tenants at Heritage House, in Beckley, helping them find the services they need. They keep me busy and the holidays with them are rewarding and sometimes sad for some of them with no family except their little family there at the apartment complex. You have to admire them, though, they never really get down! I am always seeing smiles and hearing laughter!

As the 2015 YouthBuild contract was coming



*Vickie Smith visits with Santa during his visit to SALS*

# The Fayette Tribune

YOUR HOME COUNTY NEWSPAPER

Oak Hill, West Virginia

Thursday, October 5, 2017

50 cents

## SALS awarded funds for YouthBuild

Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS) has been re-funded by the U.S. Department of Labor to continue for three more years its successful program of training and educating at-risk youth.

The Southern Appalachian Labor School was the only program funded in West Virginia and one of 77 funded within the United States, according to a press release. YouthBuild is a recognized pre-apprenticeship program that helps at-risk youth complete high school or state equivalency degree programs, earn industry-recognized certifications for in-demand occupations, and undergo training to build housing for low-income or homeless individuals and families in their communities.

The Department of Labor expects grants allocated this year will help 4,800 individuals over the next three years, 60 of whom will be in the SALS service area.

YouthBuild is a community-based alternative education program for individuals who have dropped out of high school, who have been in the justice system, are aging out of foster care or are otherwise at the risk of failing to reach key educational

and career milestones.

"There are pathways to successful careers outside of traditional education models," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta.

"There are 6.2 million open jobs in the U.S., including 228,000 in construction and 388,000 in manufacturing."

"By partnering with local community colleges and nonprofits, we can empower America's young people with the skills to succeed in the good-paying jobs of today and of the future."

SALS Director Dr. John David said the school first began the program in 1998, although it has not been offered every single year.

Moreover, students can go through SALS' AmeriCorps program and receive tuition awards to help offset further education.

"The program gives youth a second bite out of the apple while helping schools reduce dropout rates," he explained.

The program is open for students across the region, and those interested in applying should contact SALS at [sals@citynet.net](mailto:sals@citynet.net) or leave a message at 304-465-9732.

## SALS has tax credits available

If you wish to give and obtain a cash credit in return, officials ask that you consider obtaining a tax credit for giving to one of the housing, youth, education or health programs sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS). SALS has been awarded \$50,000 in tax credits to be given out to donors. Credits can be awarded for donated property, building materials, school and office supplies, equipment, vehicles, stock and cash with a minimum value of \$500. Credits are available now.

NIP, administered by the West Virginia Development Office, was established to increase the rate of charitable giving to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in West Virginia. In return

for donating cash, personal property, real estate or stock, a business or individual donor can receive a state tax credit worth up to 50 percent of the donation.

Credits come off your West Virginia tax return's bottom line, thereby reducing your taxes due to providing you with a larger refund. Deductions from federal returns for charitable contributions is also possible in the case of itemized returns.

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

to an end, there was quite a bit of completion work to be done. We had 64 youth in the different data bases in which we had to enter items. This keeps Artie and I busy on a daily basis. The new YouthBuild program has begun now, which meant fingerprints have to be scheduled, paperwork completed, and files set up.

We had 27 of our YouthBuild qualify for their HBI certification (Home Builders Institute). This is quite an honor for our youth. It shows they have worked hard and learned. Classroom teachers are Barb Painter and Ed Warfield while Terry Black, Jimmy Adkins, James Harvey, and Steve Maynard do the on the job training.

We had a wonderful trainer for Weatherization and Green Building, Xavier Walter. He taught the youth for two days about the different aspects of energy conservation. The youth really enjoyed it.

The Helen M. Powell Food Pantry continues to thrive. We serve at least 200 families per month from the Historic Oak Hill School. Some keep coming back monthly while we have at least 30 new families per month. We set up a room like an old general store as was suggested in a Food Bank training. Folks are assisted through the "store" and are able to pick out what they do and do not want---this sort of gives them ownership of what they eat. Both the recipients and the youth enjoy this. We have one recipient who is 90 years old and does most of the choosing herself. When it comes to carrying out her choices, I think the youth actually argue on who gets to help her! It is fun to watch both parties get excited about their work!

## Jessi's Corner

*by Jessi Parker*

Things have been very busy around SALS. I've coordinated many different workshops dealing with Energy Efficiency and Floods all over Fayette County. The purpose is to help the community better understand the dangers of floods and what to do in case it did happen as well as help lower power bills and how to make homes more energy efficient.

We had AEP representative come and speak about ways to lower power bills, other programs to help the community and much more. Also, Fayette County's 911 Center personnel came to talk about ways to prepare families for when a flood happens. Vickie Smith and John David came to discuss housing counseling to new members of YouthBuild com-

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*YouthBuild crew and volunteers working on replacing a roof at the Vealey home in Oak Hill.*

ing in for mental toughness.

I'm very excited to see new ones come aboard because the sky is the limit. There is so much you can accomplish while you are in YouthBuild.

## YouthBuild Trainers

*by Terry Black*

There have been a lot of trainings and projects going around SALS such as rehabs, Mental Toughness, volunteers and much more. I, along with the other YouthBuild Trainer, have been working with the Members on rehabs throughout Fayette County and keeping up with maintenance on SALS rentals. We have been also working on the Historic Oak Hill School to get prepared for the sprinkler system.

About a month ago we had a new group of youth come in for mental toughness and have been showing them the ropes. YouthBuild Members and I have upgraded the VISTA office with new cubicles and even new paint on the walls. Over the summer we have had a lot of volunteers and I coordinated a lot of projects with them. Two of the older YouthBuild Members are work-release prisoners from the state prison who are helping us out on weekends.

Members are in electrical class at the Vo-Tech Center and they are doing very well and expect to graduate this summer. We had a great informational workshop on how to use our new insulation blower equipment, which will save time and money on the upcoming rehabs and new homes.



*by Steven Maynard, YouthBuild Supervisor*

Great things are taking place at SALS! We



have made a lot of homeowners very happy by helping them live more comfortable in their own houses. YouthBuild Members have benefitted by learning the trade and understanding the value of helping homeowners. We have even had some homeowners cook for us and order pizza. We sat and ate and had fun conversations with them,

essentially making a friend. I can honestly say SALS is bringing smiles to the community.

## **SALS Kincaid Office News**

*by Ruth Lanham*

It is with great sadness that Rick Wadsworth has passed away. Rick has been with SALS for a long time. I have been with SALS for many years and I am saddened when we lose one of our own. We work as a team and when a team member is gone it is hard to pick up the pieces of that member's work. Rick was Treasurer of SALS. It is like a puzzle and all the pieces fit together to make it whole.

Our office stays so busy with so many different things going on. We do grant applications continuously. Our peak season never seems to roll around anymore. We have been hustling to get different grants to come in. The reports on all the grants still need to be completed and turned in to appropriate agencies. All funds are dependent on these reports.

We are still searching for grants to use for housing for low income families. The need is tremendous. The Regina Three River Apartment project is ready for applicants with several apartments open. Applications are available in several of our locations.

At this time the work is challenging. Our phones ring constantly with people wanting our services. We have lots of folks who just drop in for different things. The need is there and we do what

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we can.

The food bank has been going very well. We are serving many 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. 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. We also could use a car hauler and some good working freezers.

There are times when families need furnishings such as a washer, stove, dryer, or refrigerator. Theirs quit working and they have no funds to purchase these items. I would like to be able to help every phone caller 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. 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 Kincaid office. God will bless you richly for your kindness.

## **The Meaning of Rehabilitation**

*by James Harvey, VISTA*

I want to fill everyone in on the ongoing project at the residence of Wanda Ball. When I was assigned to that jobsite, both her dining room and kitchen were taking on water. So as I and other team members assessed what we needed to do. First we tore out the existing walls to the concrete and sealed up the walls with hydro seal and stop leak. Second we went outside to the walls that were leaking and dug down to the footers. I then instructed my team to clean the wall to the footer of debris. We then poured concrete, laid in drainage pipe and gravel, and hydro sealed outside of the wall. Since then, the kitchen and dining room have been completely dry. Walls and flooring are currently being installed. On another note as a recent applicant to the VISTA program, I completed my training at PSO November 9, 2017. I am very excited to be in this position and see what we can accomplish this year.

## Summer, A Time Enjoyed!

by LaToya Ray

This summer was very refreshing....especially with the vacation that I took. The hard work in the community garden really paid off. The harvest was very plentiful, and the community members were pleased with the results. Once again, we had a successful Energy Express program this summer. The program ran smooth and working with the kids was inspirational and uplifting. They really enjoyed the program this year. At the end of the program the kids were hoping that it would continue because they enjoyed it so much. Now that it's over we'll concentrate on the Accent Education After School Program and make it just as enjoyable.

## Regina Three Rivers: A Place to Really Live

by Brenda Warrick

Regina Apartments has come a long way this past year and it took a lot of work to get her there. Regina went from the Devil's armpit to a wonderful family community where folks are wanting to live.

We had an awesome Halloween Fall cookout that was done by the tenants and it was incredible!!

Thanksgiving and Christmas were just as impressive. Last year I bought turkeys for the tenants who did not have one. This year the turkey dinners are going to be delivered and the tenants are excited about prepared meals. Last year John, Michelle (my daughter) and I prepared gifts for the tenants and delivered them in the middle of the night. There was only 8 tenants last year and now we have 21 if my counting is right and hopefully I can pull it off again or at least for the children. I'm proud of how close the tenants have become. The month before I arrived at Regina, 911 was called 77 times in one month. Apparently we have some fantastic folks living at Regina now. People are now ever beginning to attend town council meetings and becoming involved with the community. As for myself I couldn't ask for a better position....long hours and hard work, but it's worth every minute.

## Housing and Helping Families in Need

by Lisa Manley, Housing Development Coordinator

This has been a very busy time in housing! We had over 400 volunteers staying in Cedar Grove for Group Workcamp. They painted, built porches and wheelchair ramps on over 60 homes in the area. It was such a good camp, there were already groups wanting to sign up for next year. I hope the volunteers realize what an impact they have on the residents whose homes they worked on. The camp lasts a week but the results are long lasting. There are friendships made that will last a lifetime. It is nice to have people from other states take time out of their summer to come and give a hand to someone who really needs it. These acts of kindness are greatly appreciated and we are truly grateful to each and everyone who participates in this program. We are already taking applications for next year. The Camp will run for a week in June.

We also had 4 owner-occupied homes approved for rehabilitation and three of them are being worked on now. We have completed several homes in the Self-Help program and have some homes approved for the Disaster Relief Program.

We obtained an increase in money for our Emergency Food and Shelter Program sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This was needed to buy more food for the food pantry. We have more families coming to get food every month. I am glad we are able to help them get through a rough patch. We were able to buy food to make several food boxes for Thanksgiving and we are doing the same for Christmas.

Yes, it has been a very busy time but we now have a part time office assistant. She is a great worker and helps a lot with paperwork. Her name is Tracy Butner and she is my middle daughter. So now I can boss her at work as well as at home. She might not always listen to me at home but she has to at work. After all, "Mother Knows Best!"

## A Harvest Cheer!

by VISTA Volunteers Kenna Bass and William Austin

As the harvest season came and went we were very pleased with the garden this year. The community came out and supported the community garden





*Jill Lordan (back left) & Rebeca Dennis (back right) from NCALL at a monitoring visit of the SALS USDA Self-Help program. They visited the Accent Education After School program in Beards Fork and an OakHill housing site.*

by volunteering. Several visiting volunteering groups helped us as well as the Boy Scouts of America. So much was sown into the earth.....and what a harvest we had! Plenty of tomatoes, peppers, greens, green beans, herbs, cabbage, lettuce, and squash. Plenty for everyone who wanted fresh vegetables. Now it's time to plan for next year.

We've been busy researching grants and plan on growing year-round in the greenhouse and high tunnel. We've also been assisting the Accent Education After-School Program by writing grants to help with our kids' education. We're fortunate to have been selected to be a recipient of \$300 for our Student-4-Change program from Our Children, Our Future and \$1500.00 for the Accent Education Program from Families Leading Change....both organizations are part of the WV Try This Coalition. Healthy bodies lead to healthy minds!

## Summertime Fun!

*by Vickie Mullins*

Our Summer Program, known as Energy Express, started off with a bang! The program had a daily average of approximately 25 kids; a little less than expected. We had some great AmeriCorps college mentors and a great coordinator (Mr. Baker). I hope all return next year. When the program is occupied with good instructors, it runs smoothly....

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which was the case at Beards Fork. The kids were well behaved and they attended daily.

They read at least five books a day which is a lot during the summer especially since we all know that kids are not interested in school work once school lets out! Reading is the focus, along with family-style breakfast as and lunches were served to all kids, free of charge, for the entire six weeks. All my kids attended the same program many years ago. It is a program that brings change in children's reading level and in their self-esteem. Children need to be told, at an early age, that they're important, smart and that they can grow up to "Be Someone". We, as adults, must keep encouraging them.

Our programs like Energy Express and the Accent Education After School Program have been a beacon of hope in rural communities we serve like Beards Fork, Page, Kimberly, and other like communities. We also serve Oak Hill, Montgomery, Smithers, and the surrounding areas. We at SALS believe in keeping the doors open and the lights on! What message does this send? It tells parents that their kids have a safe place to come and the adults are here to listen, mentor, help, and most of all encourage their children to be successful in everything, not only school, but in life!

## SALS Radio: Broadcasting to the World

*by Eric Keith, VISTA*

"Hello, this is Jim Oxendale, and welcome to Conversations from the Schoolhouse...." Jim began. Dr. Jim Oxendale takes a breath, and continues reading from his notes. "The topic we are discussing this week is the opioid epidemic we find here in southern West Virginia." The green audio waves on the computer screen jolts up and down as Jim reads his notes.

Every few weeks, Dr. Oxendale will contact me with dates and times for new episodes he would record of Conversations. He will find a theme he wishes to follow and then contacts specialists to help speak on very powerful topics. Our first set of interviews were about West Virginia authors followed by a series about the Coal Wars during the 1920's.

Having worked as a VISTA for two years, and having coordinated WAGE Radio during that time. I truly enjoyed organizing this little, local radio station up from nearly nothing to what we are now.

After many, many tries, we have the radio programs streaming on Youtube for the world to listen. The struggle with the equipment has been trying, but with diligence and a lot of duct tape WAGE has been active for nearly two years. We thank the Sister of St. Joseph for helping us get started.

During the cold winter last year, our one intern Peter, Ed Warfield, and myself traveled to the top of Lochgelly Mountain to look at what needed to happen to install our long-range antenna. Ed and Peter stood atop an abandoned concrete shack directing the antenna towards the Historic Oak Hill School while I directed from ground level. With the placement of this new equipment, we are now able to broadcast over all of Oak Hill, and parts of Fayetteville, Mt. Hope, Kincaid, and Scarbro. That was a very exciting day.

*continued on page twelve*



*Jill Lordan and Rebeca Dennis from NCALL at a monitoring visit of the SALS USDA Self-Help program. They also visited this home that is being rehabilitated in Oak Hill.*



### **SALS Newest YouthBuild Program Starts with 11 Recruits**

SALS successful YouthBuild Apprentice Program began in October with a class of 11 young adults all seeking a new beginning in life. The program offers GED/TASC educational services through the Home Builders Institute, provides a stipend and possibly an AmeriCorps Educational Award for further education and training. Participants are required to go through a period of "Mental Toughness" before being formally initiated into the YouthBuild program. SALS has 61 slots available for entrance into its YouthBuild program.





*SALS Board and Staff receive awards. The plaque frames a signed shirt that fits “all” from Roma Moulding in Toronto that was a Global Volunteer team working with SALS Housing in 2017.*



*At its annual Holiday Event SALS awarded 29 YouthBuild participants their Home Builders Institute Pre-Apprenticeship Certification Training (PACT) certificates. The nationally recognized credentials were awarded in several construction related competencies.*



### *Thankful, continued from page one*

I am thankful for the federal, state, and local agencies who contribute significantly to our mission of helping under-served populations gain skills and create opportunities for them to live productive lives.

I am thankful for those members who continue to work with our children to help them develop skills to succeed in school.

I am thankful for those members who accept the challenge of keeping the food pantry intact amid increased demand.

I am thankful for those members who continue to enhance SALS's ability to communicate with the general public, whether through WAGE Radio (106.5 FM), which can be accessed via the internet; or through the SALS newsletter, whose demand is increasing.

I am thankful those members who are networking with National, State, and Local organizations that promote social change in institutions and the environment that adversely impact the lives of people in West Virginia. I am thankful for those public policy officials that continue to provide necessary support and encouragement.

I am thankful for the opportunity for increased expansion in our zeal to provide better services to under-served individuals in our area. As Bridge Valley Community & Technical College has expressed an interest in working with SALS to offer enhanced training for identified participants, we can envision more certifications in areas of need.

Although growth in SALS role in serving the public is a real possibility, we continue to experience problematic concerns over resources needed for administration, training and certification, and operations. Funds garnered from federal and state sources are harder to come by in this period of development. Leadership is needed to build upon the work of former board members and staff, and to continue to manage the projects that offer housing, education and training, and environmental awareness.

As one staff member states, "We have not built this (SALS) organization for ourselves, but for generations that follow." The needs for southern West Virginians who fell through the cracks of the economic safety net are great. We are blessed with the beauty of a skyline of trees and mountains that must be protected for the next generation. We need leaders who are willing to advocate for public policy that guarantees the survival of our people and our land.

SALS Journal

### *Radio, continued from page ten*

Finally, Dr. Oxendale finishes the episode by telling the audience to listen to WAGE on Youtube and to check out the book festival on the first of the month. I quietly step over and review the recording. We discuss the episode, and then finish up by double-checking the new date and time for the next episode. Dr. Oxendale leaves, and I spend the next hour organizing the newest episode. The next task is to assist in opening the radio software on our new computer for WAGE Radio and loading the newest Conversations episode into the rotation.

These two years have been amazing for me, and I am excited to see WAGE Radio grow, and plan what awaits us in 2018!

### *Who is Doing What, continued from page two*

thinks rich taxpayers will game the gamed system, reducing federal revenue and increasing the long-term deficit way more than expected. This will cause more debt – and costs - owed to overseas investors. In a long term dynamic analysis as contrasted to a static score, more than 100% of the aggregate gains will go to the affluent and the increased debt costs will be paid by cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security in order to enrich debt holders. Those guarding the chicken coup will not go hungry. In fact, Credit Suisse Group AG showed a worldwide increase of 2.3 millionaires in 2017, half in the United States. Overseas, the number of billionaires has now increased to more than in the U.S. Both numbers may soon increase.

In essence, the proclaimed trickle down benefit of the proposed tax cuts will be overshadowed by the long-run increased cost of debt financing. And here, coal is not going completely away. But people must not be misled and believe that yesterday is tomorrow. The new highly competitive opportunities on the horizon will require new training and additional education if hope is to be kept alive.

The bottom line is to ask whether those who promote the touted campaigns have ulterior motives and are realistically being honest with the public about the overall consequences of major shifts in economic policies as well as the role of coal in West Virginia's economic future.

# Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

*www.SALS.info*

*www.ConstructingChangeAndBridgingGaps.com*

**SALS Community Center in Beards Fork**

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

**SALS Historic Oak Hill School**

**304-465-4246 phone/fax**

**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  
Steven Maynard

YouthBuild Trainer  
YouthBuild Trainer

**AmeriCorps/VISTA**

Austin Flint	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

**'Accent Education' After School Program**

TBA Site Coordinator

**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

**Board Officers**

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

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Sid Yoho	Heavy Construction
Linda Dillard	Custodian
Vickie Mullins	Community Center



**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](http://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.

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/St/zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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Visit us on the web: [www.sals.info](http://www.sals.info)

## **It Is The Season**

*by Ed Warfield*

As we pass through the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we have time to be thankful for all that we have.

For organizations such as SALS that serve needy families in the community, it is a time for ramping up our efforts to meet their needs.

This year we are seeing more local organizations discontinuing food pantries and holiday meals so we need your help.

Our Radio station WAGE 106.5 now streams on the internet as well as the local airwaves and we need to know about any upcoming programs, meals, or events happening in Fayette County so we can send our listening audience to the right direction for getting the help that otherwise they may not receive.

Please send any information that you would like promoted or broadcast to: WAGERADIO @ OUTLOOK.COM or JDAVID@CITYNET.NET.

This way we can help make 2018 a better year for all! Thank you.

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*

**Listen live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y05p5FdX328>**

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

**Make sure you're getting our E-Mailings!**

Send a note to John David - [jddavid@citynet.net](mailto:jddavid@citynet.net)  
and

Madeline Lanham - [madelinelanham@hotmail.com](mailto:madelinelanham@hotmail.com)  
with the subject 'Add me to List'  
to get our e-communications too!