

SALS Journal

*A publication of the
Southern Appalachian Labor School*

Issue 1 Volume 44

Summer 2022



My Roof is Leaking

By Marcus Wilkes, Housing Counselor

Imagine living in a house with rainwater leaking behind the walls and from the ceiling. SALS receive requests for information on roof repairs daily. Roof repairs are costly and dangerous.

An on-going study funded in part by Beckley Area Foundation is shining a light on areas of the greatest need in housing repair. Specifically, elderly and disabled homeowners living on a fixed income are impacted dramatically. Most of these homes are over 50 years old. Warranties on major household appliances and fixtures have long expired.

Patching a roof can help for a short time. Many times, there is limited success in finding the real problem and applying a fix. Current weather trends such as high winds and heavy rain creates havoc on homeowners living on fixed incomes. Overgrown trees leaning near roofs increases deterioration. Money needed to regularly manage the overgrowth impacts the family budget. Bird nests, bee nests, and insects can also cause problems.

Without proper roof maintenance, affected homes can face additional problems. These observations involve falling ceiling tile or sheetrock. Electrical concerns due to moisture in the attic and behind the walls, decayed and weak floors, and black mold all contribute to the devaluation of the home.

Sometimes homeowners insurance can help. Also, there are loans and grants available through lending institutions and helping agencies. On occasion, SALS has funding to help Veterans with housing issues, if income guidelines are met and ownership established. Another source of support is USDA Home Repair Loans and Grants for low and very low



income homeowners, but eligibility for these funds can be challenging.

Costs for maintaining a home continue to rise but incomes for people on fixed income are stagnant. For low income homeowners who may qualify with a very low credit score, their ability to make timely payments on debt and utilities are concerning. Medical bills continue because people are not being cured of their dilemma, and transportation costs are on-going. Many times, people forego survival needs just to make required insurance payments on homes and vehicles.

SALS recruits from school based, faith based, and professional volunteer groups to help with community housing issues. From time to time, funds are obtained from different private and public sources to assist in meeting housing needs. There are some sources that can help. However elderly and disabled homeowners are hard pressed to meet eligibility requirements, such as proof of home ownership and credit scores. Through inheritance and other means

Continued on page nine

Hello Darkness

*Contributing Column, Charleston Gazette/Mail 7/21/22
By John P. David*

Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains

Within the sound of silence
(Simon and Garfunkel)

The recent array of Supreme Court decisions appears to be divisive. They may not be the end; they may be only the beginning.

During my lifetime, I have never experienced such a divide between Red and Blue; Peace and Hate. True, we have learned about the Civil War, Juneteenth, Blair Mountain, Tulsa Massacre, Red Scare, McCarthyism, KKK, Taft Hartley Act, and more. Overseas, the examples were also many including the Holocaust which impacted many in my family. But, maturing in the 1960's, there seemed to be hope and a "coming together" that was a turn from the past.

To help counter "The Ugly American" image, I was one of the first to join the Peace Corps as part of the "New Frontier". Appalachian Volunteers and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) followed as part of "The Great Society" to alleviate poverty and create a new direction nationwide, particularly in Appalachia.

The Peace Corps experience was in Ghana, which was a challenge for someone from a tiny, isolated town unaware of the big picture. Ghana then was officially "non-aligned" but definitely not pro-American. President Kennedy was in negotiations with Ghana's President Kwame Nkrumah and six of us were part of the deal. In fact, Ghana was one of the first countries to have Peace Corps volunteers. To make sure we would be adequate for our assignment, we were specially trained for two summers before being selected. At my site, I was the only American, surrounded by two from the Soviet Union, a Chinese training camp, and a Ghanaian Army Barracks. Our presence was deemed so risky that we had a secret code signal to evacuate. We were on the front line of the Cold War and we witnessed the coup that deposed Dr. Nkrumah. Our job was to teach high school math and science as well as make Ghanaian friends, many of whom are still loyal to this day. Several even followed me to West Virginia Tech when I joined the faculty.

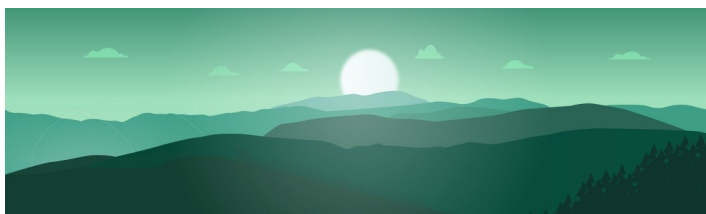
We came back to the United States and became active with the same spirit of hope. The timing was ripe for the Mountaineer Freedom Party at West Virginia University, Miners for Democracy, Black Lung Association, Civil Rights Legislation, Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Disabled Miners and Widows Association, and the formation of the Southern Appalachian Labor School at West Virginia Tech. The evils of the past were easy to ignore and the undergoing changes at that time were seductive.

But then is now. Clearly we are in the midst of a new beginning that has signs of a new Civil War with levels of hate and violence that I never previously experienced nor envisioned. Frankly, we may be at a turning point in this country because divided we will fall. That is one lesson from prior civilizations that still rings true.

However, as Simon & Garfunkel sang, "silence like a cancer grows" until a message is heard from the mountaintop. Support for the court's decisions is not popular and groups like the Poor People's Campaign, March for Our Lives, and Black Lives Matter are trying their utmost to make a difference for national consciousness and unity.

Dr. Nkrumah's Convention Peoples Party had a slogan that has always appealed to me, which was "Forward Ever, Backward Never". In this regard, the time is now upon us to test whether division or unity will prevail and whether we can deliver "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" for all Americans fairly, equally, and respectfully with justice for all.

Will there be light again?



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 Survival

By John David

The Southern Appalachian Labor School is struggling to survive. Even though infrastructure and rescue money have been announced, very little is coming to the rural unincorporated areas that we serve. Major grant proposals have been rejected by regional authorities and our efforts to obtain even a tiny slice of the pie have fallen on deaf ears.

We have received some support from the Just Transition Fund, USDA, Housing Assistance Council, Truist Foundation and other local small funders for which we are grateful to assist with getting essential services done. We have been allocated regular and summer VISTA slots as well. Volunteers with the Humanitarian Experience and Christian Endeavor have been extremely helpful also.

We lost a number of individual supporters since our last issue. They include Lee Balliet, John Revitte, Edith Bell, Tom Painter's sister, and Billy Payne's father. The prior loss of Jim Hores and his signature mugs has been painful as well. Together, they have been part of the SALS Family for decades.

As we look ahead, we are still trying to provide construction competencies for adults, especially displaced coal miners. Our plan is to offer them nationally recognized credentials and GEDs if needed as they repair coal camp houses. Our relationships with the Save the Children Federation and the West Virginia Department of Education continue to provide food and cleaning supplies to us for distribution. We continue to have monthly used book sales that distribute hundreds of books in our Reading is Fundamental campaign.

Even though the West Virginia Housing Development Fund returned \$39 million in rental assistance money to the U. S. Treasury, we have managed to assist a number of families qualify for its Mountaineer Rental Assistance program. Funds from the anti-poverty agency, EnAct, helped also. But the bottom line is that we are overwhelmed with pleas from low-income seniors and people with disabilities for ramps, basic home repairs, and weatherization. We are strapped for funds to purchase building materials, compensate supervisors of the volunteer crews, and cover transportation costs to reach scattered sites.

Our community centers in Oak Hill and Beards Fork are in desperate need of major roof repairs and the utility costs of keeping both facilities functional are not currently sustainable. We rely on vans to



L to R John David accepts donation check from Jane Dunshie with Marcus Wilkes. Jane is the daughter of Jack Robertson, who hired John at WVU Tech 41 years ago and permitted the creation of SALS at Tech.

transport kids, crews, meals, and building supplies all over the Upper Kanawha Valley and in Fayette County. Our vans fill up with up to 36 gallons of gas and you can calculate their cost of operation, let alone maintenance. The SALS Community Center in Beards Fork relies on propane which has skyrocketed. Our electric cost at the Historic Oak Hill School is averaging \$2,000/month. Both are Red Cross/911 Emergency Shelters and their value to the community is enormous.

Your support is needed now more than ever!
Much thanks to those who have already contributed.

There may be light at the end of the tunnel but it is not visible yet...



John presents Jan Dunshie with a SALS bowl made by Jim Hores, a SALS supporter who was also hired by Jack Robertson 41 years ago. Jim, who passed away last year, made and donated hundreds of 'thankyou' mugs for SALS over the years

Riding The Wave

By Joe Webb, AmeriCorps VISTA

Hello All! My name is Joe Webb and I would like to update you on what's been happening at SALS. I have been a long-time friend of SALS. I am a former AmeriCorps State member, I'm currently serving my second term as an AmeriCorps VISTA, and I'm also on the board. I am still working with our low-powered FM radio station 106.5 WAGE and with many volunteers on projects, including our monthly food bank and building repairs and upgrades. We are hoping to become one of the biggest solar projects in Fayette County. The solar project will take place at our Historic Oak Hill School; we hope to continue efforts on going green at our Beards Fork School and our Regina Three Rivers apartment complex as well.

This organization is always busy trying getting support from grants, community funding and donations for different organizations and folks who want to help us continue our good work. Sometimes a letter of support from our local county commission, city councils, small business owners, other non-profits and individuals help secure funding for us to continue to maintain and continue our good work. I would like to thank all of those who have supported us at the Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS). It is most appreciated.

This spring/summer I had the pleasure of working with ACTIVE Southern West Virginia (ASWV) again. ASWV provides structure and support for a multi-year approach to increase physical activity and wellness to our whole area by hosting events that get you moving. They are using our Historic Oak Hill School to host weekly exercise program. We also participated with ASWV in promoting activity breaks during our workday. Their community-based physical activity and self-management education programs are known throughout Southern West Virginia.

We are finishing up some construction projects that have been put on hold for years, including repairs for some folks in need. We've been preparing for volunteer groups that arrived this summer. We hosted the Humanitarian Experience (Humanitarian XP) groups from June 4th until July 23rd. When they arrived, they assisted our community by performing service projects like painting, building wheelchair ramps, and other much needed construction projects. Doing Good by Being Good is their motto. We'll be welcoming back Christian Endeavor (CE) another Faith based group. They've come to our area for multiple years to assist in housing repairs. They'll be staying in the Historic Oak Hill School July 3rd until July 16th; Empowering Youth in Ministry is their motto.

All in all, it has been a wonderful year so far! A lot of work has been done and there is always much more to do. Hope all is well with you and yours.

Making It Happen!

By Tracy Patrick, VISTA

This is such a busy time. I've been working with the accounting team to learn and set up our new Quick-Books Online account which is coming together great. I am also mentoring an office intern which is going very well. I have been arranging and doing inventory on the food pantry. One of our regulars coming to the pantry passed away. We received packs of deer meat from the Mountaineer Food Bank which our food pantry participants really enjoyed. Now we are preparing for lots of volunteers coming to SALS to do home repairs in the Upper Kanawha Valley and some areas in Fayette County.

Black Lung News - Silica Rule Change Needed!

By Debbie Willis, Black Lung Counselor
Valley Health Systems & SALS Board

Several members of the Black Lung Association have been talking with officials from the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) by phone on a quarterly basis. The Association is pushing for the current silica level to be cut in half. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) current level for silica exposure is one half of what the MSHA level is. Our miners are contracting pulmonary massive fibrosis (complicated black lung) at higher rates than ever recorded. We think cutting



Take action on Black Lung rules at www.blacklungkills.org

the level in half will help prevent complicated black lung. We have been advocating for this change for the last twelve years!

This is important to Jerry Coleman, President of the Kanawha County Chapter. He is a disabled miner with complicated black lung. His son is working in the mines now. Jerry doesn't want to see his son or any other miner in the same shape this disease has left him. He says, "It should be cut in half because the seams they are cutting now are smaller, and they're taking a whole lot of rock with it. So we really need silica levels cut in half."

Gary Hairston, President of the Fayette County Chapter and President of the National Black Lung Association, said, "I really think we need to get it passed for our younger coal miners. The companies want to wait on a study on it. We can't wait for no study. Young miners need it now. OSHA has a lower standard-we're the only ones with the higher standard."

As the Senate finally confirmed on Undersecretary of Labor, we think the rule could be changed by the end of the year. But not without pressure to make the change!

Editor's Note: *New efforts to protect miners by federal agencies still don't include a lower exposure standard.* Gazette/Mail: <https://tinyurl.com/3m3x49y6>

Readers can take action on providing continued federal support for miners with Black Lung at www.blacklungkills.org

Housing Progress at SALS

By Vickie Smith, Construction Manager

Our crews have been very small to nonexistent for the last couple of months. We currently have a crew of 4. As you can imagine, with rentals, two new homes under roof, and a couple of extensive repair units that we own, we are spread very thin. Not to mention acres to mow and vehicles to often repair.

We did manage to complete the upgrades on the personal care home in Oak Hill and lease it out for the next year. As with most things we had set it on the back burner but had to jump back on it so that the organization could help recover the cost of fixing up and utility cost of several years. The crew did an excellent job. We hired a few extra hands to help pull off the four-day endeavor. So, thanks to Kayla, Matthew, and Vince for helping us complete the job quickly.



Volunteers work with SALS to construct a wheelchair ramp for a local resident with disabilities

SALS has tax credits from the state. These are beneficial to both private individuals and companies. So if you have any items that you would like to donate to SALS please call the office at 304.250.7627 and ask for John David.

We are finally getting power to the new development in Page. This too turned into an ordeal due to the pandemic, job positions changing at AEP, and scheduling the Engineers.

In the past several months we have been hit hard by thieves in Fayette County. As always, this results in huge losses and limited recovery or restitution. As this is allowed to continue, the problem will become worse for the community and may deter folks considering relocating to the area.

We still operate our food pantries in Oak Hill and Beards Fork. We have many people with food insecurities and the cost of inflation is causing the problem to grow. The food donations from the food bank are down substantially so there isn't enough for the larger families.

Shumate Plus

By Terry Black, YouthBuild Trainer

It has been a hectic period. At our donated personal care home on Shumate Street in Oak Hill, we replaced floors and all water lines. We also replaced all sheetrock on the first level and put in an entire new kitchen with all cabinets. We replaced both water heaters, installed two new furnaces, painted the place, and put furniture in all rooms. In addition, we worked on several Page homes and both of the new houses under construction in Page.

Laughter is the Brush that Sweeps Away the Cobwebs of the Heart

By Barbara Painter

It was a busy spring, but when you know that you are assisting low-income families, it is all worth it. I was contacted by the West Virginia Executive Magazine for ideas about articles that would be nice to see in the magazine. The first one I thought the work that SALS does and how many families are affected by that work and sustainability that families are given because of that work. We may all be tired and grumble about it sometimes, but when we go to bed at night, we can think of that child going to bed with food in their stomach and not being hungry nor having a roof over his head and being warm. This is how we can be at peace with ourselves. My only regret is that we do not have enough funding to help everyone.

I continue to help the tenants at Heritage House in Beckley in finding the services that they need. I really missed them during the part of the pandemic when no one was allowed to visit. But if that kept them well, that is what counts! It is sometimes challenging, but I enjoy it! If you know an older person that lives alone, call them every once in a while, even if it is to just say hello and how are you. It will mean more than you will ever realize! Sometimes pizzas are donated by Little Ceasars and we delivered them to the tenants. Volunteers also deliver them to the apartments, giving them a task to help with.

The food pantry has been doing well, we assist many families each month. By doing this, families that may not be able to eat healthy can do so. Our pantry is usually on the first Friday each month. Thank you to all of those who assist with the pantry!

Back Again

By Devin Rankin

I am here because I enjoy being here and the learning experience to work with others, learn new skills, and the opportunity to acquire new skill sets for the future. I worked at McDonald's as a cook, but the store is being totally rebuilt. Thus, I'm glad to be back at SALS again for the second time.

Pitching In!

By Arby Smith

I have been working at the Miller Street site in Oak

Hill laying floor, painting, hanging cabinets, fixing switches, and hanging lights. I also have been at the Historic Oak Hill School cutting grass and dealing with the pantry.

Building Back Better

By Eric Hodge, VISTA

My name is Eric Hodge and I'm writing this to explain what's been done with the house we've refurbished. For the time since December, we have refurbished a former nursing home called Willow Bay. There were multiple things done like putting in new floors, replacing plumbing, putting in new kitchen cabinets, and making sure the people were happy with everything that I and my crew have done with Willow Bay. Now we are working on a house over on Miller Avenue in Oak Hill. For the house on Miller Avenue, we have put new floors down and new cabinets in as well as dug a drain line ditch for the run-off for the rain drain.

Note: Eric was formerly in YouthBuild and came back for an On the Job Training position with Workforce Development. He has now become a VISTA and will coordinate volunteers.

From YouthBuild to Vista

My name is Cheyenne Biggs. In 2018, the day after my birthday my sister and I moved to West Virginia to live with and assist our grandma. Our neighbor Joy, being good friends with Barbara Painter, talked to her about getting us a position at SALS. When I started it was very different than what I was used to. The people and what YouthBuild did were interesting. I worked on houses before, and it was exciting. For almost two years I have learned many skills and even found someone I ended up starting a family with.

In 2021, SALS was looking for members again, so I signed up to become a VISTA. Since I've been back we have coordinated making the personal care home on Shumate Street in Oak Hill available for renters. There was a lot of work to do but when we finished it felt really good.

We have another project called the Miller Street house. I was there when we first started it years ago and I'm extremely proud with the way it's turning out and how close to being done it is. I have been informed that next project will be the coalfield houses in Page/Kincaid where houses are being built from the ground up. It's such an exciting adventure and I am proud to be a part of it.

Lisa's Housing News

By Lisa Manley, Housing & VISTA Administrator

Hey everyone, I am so happy that we survived the pandemic and the aftermath of uncertainty. But hopefully we can now get back on track and get some things done.

Repairs on houses will be different this year because some of our volunteer groups are not going to get to come, but we have some new groups, and we really appreciate them. I hope all the groups will come here next year. The residents appreciate the work done on their homes so much.

So, let's see what else (I'm not good at writing articles for the newsletter so just bear with me). SALS got three houses finished for USDA HPG grant, and we are still giving out food and sending out lots of applications to get home repairs.

Oh, and SALS has summer VISTAs. They're so much help with the Summer Feed and Read, opioid prevention, COVID vaccine awareness and home repairs for low-income families.

There is a lot more I could say but I have at least 5 things on my desk that I should be working on so maybe next time.

Stay safe and always, always be kind to each other.

Carrying On the Torch at Regina Three Rivers Apartments

By Tylor Dent

If you would have asked me a couple years ago where I thought I'd be today, I never would have guessed or thought I'd be where I am. My passion for helping others came at a young age as I watched my single mother struggle through poverty taking care of my three siblings and myself. I owe a great deal of strength and who I am today to her. In August 2021, Brenda Warrick passed down her torch to me and the mighty reigns of Regina Three Rivers Apartments.

Brenda's are big shoes to fill, and I work to fill them everyday that passes. It was unfortunate and sad to see Brenda leave and we miss and think of her every day. She is a huge part of what Regina is today. Last year's Fourth of July party took off with a "bang" thanks to Brenda and many others but due to personal reasons Brenda was unable to attend. This year we threw one just as special. Southern Appalachian Labor School and Regina



*Tylor Dent, Project Manager,
Regina Three Rivers Apartments*

Apartments have fulfilled a dream of mine, being able to give back to the communities and helping others is something I've always had a passion for. Last year, I had many amazing opportunities and great memories to carry with me. It was life changing volunteering and supervising talented young men and women whose only goals were to better the lives of those less fortunate.

The Latter-Day Saints and other groups came in from all over the United States to paint houses, build wheelchair ramps, and give their time to those in need. It's refreshing knowing that there is still good in this world, even in a nation going through turmoil from Covid-19 and other hardships. It's times like these when the world needs more determined, and kindhearted individuals to stand and make a change.

My hopes are that this year we can help more low-income families, veterans, and young minds that have suffered through poverty. Covid-19 and lack of opportunities in West Virginia. I read a quote once that stuck with me after seeing how much our world, our families, our neighbors and more have suffered:

"People who really want to make a difference in the world usually do it, in one way or another. And I've noticed something about people who make a difference in the world: They hold unshakable conviction that individuals are extremely important, that every life matters. They get excited over one smile. They are willing to feed one stomach, educate one mind and treat one wound. They aren't determined to revolutionize the world at once; they're satisfied with small changes overtime though, the small changes add up. Sometimes they even transform cities, nations and yes, the world." – Beth Clark

That's Southern Appalachian Labor School, and I'm blessed to be a part of this organization.

Kincaid Office News

By Ruth Lanham, Chief Administrator

Hello, this is Ruth at the SALS business office in Kincaid. We have been very busy submitting large proposals to YouthBuild, Economic Development Administration, Just Transition Fund, Truist Foundation, Appalachian Regional Commission, and several other smaller ones. We are waiting for replies from the funders. There is a lot of different things going on at SALS. I have not been able to walk very well so I am working mostly from home. I come to the office at least 2 or 3 times a week. We have had several changes happening. Some of us have had problems with our health but we are pushing on.

I have helped several families do their application for the Mountaineer Rental Assistance Program. We also have been getting a lot of utilities paid for individuals with the Mountaineer Rental Assistance Program.

We receive calls daily asking for help with other things. Some want a ramp build so they can get in and out of their house to go back and forth to the doctor. Roofs seem to be a major problem with most of these people. For them it is a major problem that they can't afford to have fixed. To us it is a regret that we can't get help to everybody. There are also some people who do not have heat in their homes. We are blessed beyond measure with all that we have. So we should help the less fortunate with anything we can help with.

Again, we are still in need of vehicles so that we can replace some of the very old ones with high mileage. We also are in desperate need of a pickup truck. We are also have lots of requests for washers, dryers, stoves, and refrigerators. 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 in Kincaid. We can offer you West Virginia Tax Credits and/or a Federal Charitable gift deduction!

Thank you in advance for your kindness to our community.

MOVING FORWARD

By Holly Manley, VISTA

I first started at SALS in the YouthBuild program. Then, under Workforce, I began working in the SALS office. I have learned how to type letters, sort files, write reports, and submit grants. It has been a wonderful learning experience.

Then I became a summer VISTA! I served SALS by assisting with the Feed and Read program by preparing and serving nutritious lunches to children and giving them good books to read.

Accent Education Express

By Kathryn South, Program Coordinator

Summer of 2022 came on hot and steamy. With all that is going on in the world this last fall and winter and war in the Ukraine, what we do is a ripple, but we try to keep our programs as normal as possible with folks doing double jobs due to our smaller workforce.

Meals were provided for children in the area for part of the winter going into spring, and now we are following up with Summer Food deliveries to five locations. Beards Fork was opened up for children to attend a make-shift version of Energy Express without AmeriCorps support, but we do with what we have and the summer VISTAs did a great job of filling that role. Thank you to all the folks who applied and completed the assignments for this year's goal of keeping children fed and giving them reading material to keep up those scores.

Volunteers came in June and worked on several sites and we expanded the area a little to include Page. This is the second year for the Humanitarian group, and we appreciate all they did for the folks who could not do the work themselves. Last year about 10 to 12 homes were painted and a wheelchair ramp was built for a lady in Robson. We get more orders for these ramps than we are able to complete. The cost of materials is also a major issue, and the lack of supplies makes the job of doing these projects much harder.

Our Summer Foods Program provided meals to children 18 and younger in Beards Fork, Bridgewater Place in Montgomery, Gertrude Apartments in Smithers, Collinwood Park in Oak Hill and Pine Knoll in Oak Hill. We averaged about 30 to 45 meals a day in these areas. Other groups are helping with feeding seniors and others who may need a little extra help with the high cost of food and folks deciding whether to buy food or buy gas or pay utility bills.

Lots of folks are struggling to make ends meet who are on fixed incomes, so anything that SALS, community churches, or local folks, can do to help their neighbors is greatly needed and appreciated.

My Roof Is Leaking, continued from pg. one

of property acquisition, deeds may be recorded in the names of a different person, or several individuals, such as siblings. Lienholders can also limit access to financial resources.



Day Light

By Anonymous

like an eagle
I scan the Day Center,
take it all in:

women in family court
bring in their babies,
the staff croons and cares
as all humans do
who have hearts
for toddlers--
who, thank God,
have no idea
where they are,
or why

we must all be piss tested
as we're screened
we're watched,

in jail we had more privacy,
decency, respect

my first time I couldn't,
had to wait
till I just couldn't hold it anymore

the man in front of me,
bearded, wearing a WVU t-shirt,
probably 40,
but looking much older,

tests positive for Meth
and Fentanyl

he had to know he'd fail his screen;
just couldn't help himself
I guess

with frowns and regrets
the necessary call is made to Officer Stapleton
who shows up immediately

the man protests
half hardily,
"I've got kidney problems....
ate a poppy seed bagel...."

but he knows he's high
and no amount of protest will avail—
he's going to jail, no words true or false will
save his butt

he puts his hands behind his back
without being asked
and is cuffed and led away
in front of God & everyone,
a shroud falls over the room

it's a 3-minute walk to the courthouse holding tank,
but a much longer wait to be transported
and booked at the regional jail,
once again

so much for this year's Christmas--
another lost
hillbilly disappears
into the belly
of the orange beast
there to be slowly digested....

in jail time moves so slow
you could almost live
forever,
but you wouldn't want to

it's all so predictable, grim, tragic, real

Jason and Marissa,
who reluctantly
made the call,
go back to marveling
over a newborn,
Innocent until proven guilty

life goes on, for some
coochy coochy coo

Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

www.SALS.info

www.ConstructingChangeAndBridgingGaps.com

**Community Center in Beards Fork
Historic Oak Hill School
Kincaid Central Office voice or fax:**

**779-2280 phone/fax
304-465-4246 phone/fax
304-250-7627 or 304-300-1731**

**John David, Director - 304-250-7627
Vickie Smith, Const. - 304-640-3792, fax 469-9721
Ruth Lanham, Admin. Assistant - 304-250-7627
Marcus Wilkes, Housing Counselor - 304-465-4246 or
304-222-1145**

Board Officers

Joe Webb Chair
Marcus Wilkes Secretary/Treasurer,
marcone0900@gmail.com
John David Director, j david@citynet.net

Project Staff

Kathryn South Program Support
mustangkathryn@gmail.com
Vickie Smith Construction Manager
vickielsmith1958@gmail.com
Gary Zuckett Health/Economic/Enviro Justice
SALS Journal garyz@sals.info
Artie Mullins Community Center
artiemullins@earthlink.net
Ruth Lanham Administrative Assistant
madelinelanham44@gmail.com
Lisa Manley Housing -
lisacmanley@hotmail.com
Marcus Wilkes Housing Counselor
marcone0900@gmail.com
Linda Dillard Custodian
Terry Black Construction Trainer

AmeriCorps/VISTA

Eric Hodge VISTA
Tracy Patrick VISTA
Joe Webb VISTA
Taylor Dent VISTA

'Accent Education' Express /Feed & Read

Collective Staff Site Coordinators

Regina Three Rivers Apartments Tylor Dent, Manager

Social Services Barbara Painter

Mature Workers Program

Robert Nelson, Joe Burrow, Sandy Grasty,
Donna Leftwich, Vernon Coles,
Christiann Lynch

Finance Team

Ruth Lanham, Joe Webb
Lennart Billstrom (Sweden)
Marcus Wilkes, John David
Bookkeeping for WV

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 receive a gift of appreciation when requested Give on the WEB at: www.sals.info/donate

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

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.

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN LABOR SCHOOL



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Marcus Wilkes, the Southern Appalachian Labor School assistant director, welcomed 40 Christian Endeavor home repair volunteers on Sunday, July 3 at the SALS Historic Oak Hill School.

Volunteers again assisting with local home repairs

By **Steve Keenan** THE FAYETTE TRIBUNE

The summer of 2022 features the Beards Fork-based Southern Appalachian Labor School continuing with an overall mission which includes repairs in housing projects sponsored by the organization.

Another round of volunteers arrived in Fayette County on July 3 to give their time to join with AmeriCorps summer associate VISTA and others to provide weatherization, wheelchair ramps, porch and steps work and structural stabilization for low-income seniors, disabled coal miners and wounded veterans with the assistance of the Kanawha County Commission, Housing Assistance Council, Home Depot, USDA and the Community Affordable Housing Equity Corporation, according to SALS Executive Director Dr. John P. David.

Christian Endeavor and HumanitarianXP will provide the main source of volunteer labor this year as work is completed on nearly 20 homes. Christian Endeavor is scheduled to be in the area for two weeks in July, while HumanitarianXP, which provided six groups in 2021, is returning with seven groups of volunteers in 2022.

HumanitarianXP is being housed at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork, while Christian Endeavor will be lodged at the SALS Historic Oak Hill School.

"Covid has impacted the past two years,"

David said. "All of us were concerned about groups of volunteers coming here, doing work as a team, and impacting senior, disabled and wounded residents."

Another problem that has affected the critical home improvement efforts of late is obtaining funding to secure building materials, the cost which has increased tremendously, David noted.

"This influx of people power provides focus on the housing crisis in rural, underserved areas," David wrote in an op-ed this week. "West Virginia has a very high home ownership rate, but many of the homes were built over a hundred years ago as employee housing in rural and coal camp communities. Many have been fixed up but still are not in compliance in regard to plumbing, heating and electrical services.

"Jenny Lind houses often lack adequate insulation, and poor roofs are a common problem. In fact, we are a long way away from 'a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family,' which was the Truman administration's national goal for housing nearly 60 years ago."

Current inflation and a projected recessionary slowdown in the economy has raised new fears that a housing crisis will continue to worsen, David wrote.

He also stressed those promoting economic development should understand "that adequate housing is a key success component."

REGISTER-HERALD.COM

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2022

SINGLE COPY: \$:

REGISTER-HERALD.

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

The Roof Is Leaking

Song by [Phil Collins](#)

[Verse 1]

The roof is leaking, and the wind is howling
Kids are crying 'cause the sheets are so cold
I woke this morning found my hands were frozen
I've tried to fix the fire, but you know, the damn
thing's too old

[Verse 2]

It's been months now, since we heard from our Mary
I wonder if she ever made the coast
Well, she and her young man,
they both moved out there
I sure hope they write, just to let us know

[Chorus]

And me, I'm getting stronger by the minute
My wife's expecting, but I hope she can wait
'Cause this winter looks like
it's gonna be another bad one
But spring'll soon be here,
Oh Well I hope it's not late

[Verse 3]

Ma and Pa lived here, and theirs before them
They tried their hardest to make it a home
Seems so long now since they passed over
Hope my children'll try to make it their own

[Verse 4]

My roof is leaking and the wind is howling
The kids are crying 'cause the sheets are so cold
I woke this morning found my hands were frozen
Oh, I've tried to fix the fire, but you know, the damn
thing's too old

[Chorus]

But me, oh, I'm getting stronger by the minute
My wife's expecting, but I hope she can wait
'Cause this winter looks like
It's gonna be another bad one
But spring'll soon be here,
Oh God, I hope it's not late