

CAP Connection

A newsletter for volunteer alumni of the Christian Appalachian Project

Fall/Winter 2010



Jerry O'Daniel: Dedicated board member completes years of service

It was 50 years ago or so when Jerry O'Daniel first heard Fr. Beiting talk about the needs in Kentucky's mountains. Jerry never forgot those needs and gladly accepted CAP's invitation to join us after retiring from IBM in 1996. He says his involvement deepened when he stepped in as chairman of CAP's board after Father Beiting stepped aside. Following the death of CAP's president Mike Sanders in 2003, he volunteered as our interim president of the organization.

From his first meeting, Jerry liked what he saw. "I felt the presence of the Lord at CAP," he says, recalling how the board prayed before the meeting. He saw God in the board, employees, volunteers, donors and throughout eastern Kentucky.



"I think God is with CAP and God blessed CAP."

Jerry cites a long list of former and present em-

ployees, volunteers and board members who have helped make it all possible. One person who stands out to him is Peggy Hancock, Manager of Grateful Bread and Grateful Threads who he calls "CAP personified." "She serves with a big heart and could make things happen," he says.

He also recognizes that none of it would have gotten

started if Fr. Beiting had not responded to the call of the Holy Spirit.

"All of these people really love their neighbor," Jerry says. They don't do the work because they'll earn a lot of money or because they get a pat on the back. "You do it because these people are in need. They are real."

Jerry has been an integral part of that through his years of service, years that have certainly made a big difference to everyone touched by CAP. But Jerry sees himself as only one member of the army. Borrowing a quote he has often heard from CAP alums, Jerry summarizes his CAP accomplishments by saying: "I'm just a volunteer."

Anita Rayner: Cooking in service of the Lord

One day while in the CAP office where she had been assigned to serve, volunteer Anita Rayner heard someone say she was short a cook to prepare food for a volunteer group. Anita volunteered to fill in. Little did she know that her offer to help would grow into a long-term volunteer commitment that has introduced her to hundreds of CAP volunteers over the past seven years.

"I love it. I get to meet so

many nice people," Anita says about her service. "I just feel blessed that CAP believes in me enough to keep me."

CAP has seen what a dedicated volunteer Anita is, even rising long before dawn to prepare breakfast for groups who want to get out early to beat the heat. "That's my service for the Lord," she says.

It was 1997 when, Anita says, God sent her into the mission field after her husband



Anita Rayner (right) has enjoyed meeting participants and volunteers during her service.

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From Across the Mountains

Anna Paulus, '07-'08 and Curtis Horning, '07-'08 were married September 4 in Burlington, Wisconsin. Curtis' brother **Alex Horning, '06-'07** served as the best man and several CAP alums joined the celebration. The couple lives in Lexington.

Ann Fairchild, '07-'09 married Harley Henline on October 10. Ann served two years as a long-term volunteer with the Eagle Child and Family Development Center and five months as an Accounting volunteer in 2009-10. Many of her alumni friends traveled to Indiana to celebrate the big day.

Tiffany Ritter, '07 - '08 married Abel Silveira on August 1 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The couple is living in Lancaster and Tiffany is teaching adult basic education and GED classes, which is what she also first did as a CAP volunteer!



Tiffany (Ritter) Silveira and Abel Silveira

Chris Hostetter, '96-'98, and his wife Ericka welcomed their daughter Christiana into the world on August 6. The Hostetters live in Lexington



Chris and Ericka Hostetter with Christiana in an "unconventional" family photo.

where Chris is working part-time and completing a final paper that will finish his Master's Degree from Marshall University. He's concentrating on Appalachian studies and writes, "My volunteer time with the Christian Appalachian Project has surely inspired me to con-

centrate my studies in this area."

Chuck Gribble, '95 - '98, visited with **Marv and Janie House, '96,** at their place in Blaine, Tenn. while en route to a Sierra Club volunteer project in North Carolina. "My, the memories we had to share!" Chuck wrote.



Marv and Janie House with Chuck Gribble

Steve Laudenslager: A servant's life

Steve Laudenslager, '98-'00 passed away July, 18 after a sudden illness. In addition to being a volunteer alum, Steve was a former employee in the Volunteer Program. **Todd Mullholland, '98-'99** offers this remembrance.

I first met Steve in June 1998 at our volunteer orientation in Lancaster. Although Steve and I went to different volunteer houses, I saw Steve at several events.

Maybe it was a connection between two new volunteers or similar personalities that allowed for easy conversation, but I found Steve's realness and easy-going demeanor very comfortable. This connection instantly developed into a friendship. After my service with CAP, I stayed in touch with Steve. I moved to Knoxville, Tenn. and he would come to visit. The last time was this past June, a month before his passing.

In between stints with CAP, Steve worked as a trucker. He had a tremendous amount of time on this job to reflect on God and his life. He'd write these reflections in e-mails. Mostly, he'd emphasize the importance of having a relationship with God, enjoying His presence and reminding us of scriptural truths that Jesus taught.

Steve left a legacy of putting others before himself and sharing God's love through volunteering and working for CAP and serving in a church ministry he loved in Texas. Steve's life was a reflection of God's love for us. I'll miss Steve, but I hope my life can impact others the way his did to further God's Kingdom.



Anita Rayner: Cooking in service to the Lord

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died. She didn't want to be a widow who only sat around in her senior years. "I think God has a bigger plan for us," she says.

Anita served in Alaska, New York, Romania then in Alaska again. Both times she was in Alaska, she met former CAP volunteers who talked about how wonderful they thought the organization was. Anita took that as a sign that she should look into volunteering with CAP herself. In July 2004, she began her service.

She fell in love with the mountains and Kentucky when she moved to the eastern part of the state. Her experience has

shown her it's a place where people are down-to-earth, say what they mean and truly care about one another.

Anita has enjoyed volunteering as a cook as well as being part of the larger CAP community where she can begin the day with prayer. She considers the employees to have the same service orientation as the volunteers because she's seen their dedication and knows they could earn more money elsewhere. "Because of their love for people and their values, they stay," she says. She also sees CAP as being good stewards of the money it receives.

Living in a volunteer com-

munity has also been a new experience for her that she calls a work-in-progress. One of the benefits it has given her has been the opportunity to know people of other religions. When she was growing up, people in her town were prejudiced against Catholics. Two of the housemates Anita grew close to were **Frank and Lucy Fuchs, '04-'05** both Catholics. "They taught me so much about their faith and their religion. I learned to appreciate their dedication and way of worshipping the Lord."

Anita has expanded her horizons through many experiences with CAP. "I think if you don't learn something new every day of your life then you're standing still," she says.

When she thinks about the energy she's devoted to CAP, she sometimes wonders where the sacrifice is because it has all felt so good. "We're supposed to help and bless others but we're the winners—we're the ones who get the blessing."

Even when Anita completes her volunteer commitment, she won't be finished serving. She plans to settle in the area. "I'm going to become a Kentuckian after I finish. I know this is where God wants me."

Mini-reunion participants include: Kelly Reis, '08-'09, Amy Nee, '06-'07, Laura LeCompte, '07-'08, Amy Schill, '03-'05, David Hegstrom, '07-'08.



CAP holds mini-reunion in Chicago

Several Chicago-area CAP alums met with Volunteer Recruitment and Alumni Coordinator **Amy Schill, '03-'05** during her recent recruitment visit to Chicago. **Laura LeCompte, '07-'08** organized the mini-reunion where the group enjoyed fellowship and all together too much pizza. Amy hopes to get together with other alums on future recruitment trips.

Of course, alums need not wait for Amy to organize a mini-reunion. On CAP's volunteer alumni website, you can find newly created Google Groups for alums in Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and other major cities. The groups act as listservs where you can connect with alums in your area and build CAP community where you live. Contact Amy at volunteer@chrisapp.org to add your metropolitan area. There are also larger Google groups for job postings and announcements.

Summer Camp

It's not too early to begin making plans for summer 2011. CAP will re-open summer camps next year so there will be lots of spots open for camp volunteers. For more information, contact the volunteer office at 1-800-755-5322 or volunteer@chrisapp.org.

Thank you

Alums who represent CAP at colleges and churches, provide hospitality for our recruiter, Amy Schill, or both save us hundreds of dollars a year in travel expenses. Thank you to the following for their recent assistance:

Jenny King, '08-'10

Patrick Carruthers, '09-'10

Amanda Breen, short-term '09 and '10

Katie Bostiga, '08-'10

Gina Pirozzi, '08-'09

Carla Durand-Demarais, '90-'91

Mary McNamara, '94-'96

Ursula (Newton) Rossman, '96-'97

Mike O'Brien, '08-'09

Julianna Rado, Summer Camp 2009

Hope Christensen, '04-'05



Orientation breaks records

It was another record-breaking orientation in September when 32 volunteers joined CAP, taking the total number of volunteers to 74. Although there are likely multiple factors contributing to these large numbers, Director of Volunteers/Christian Partners Kathleen Leavell says she believes one reason for the high numbers is that people like being part of something successful.

Alums help with Christmas baskets

We were overwhelmed by the quick response of alums to our e-mail appeal for additional Christmas Basket sponsors. On behalf of the families who will be extra-blessed this Christmas, thank you.

CAP Connection is published quarterly by the CAP Volunteer Program. If you have news to share or story ideas to suggest, please send them to one of the following:

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McCreary House progresses with volunteer help

The building is underway for our new volunteer house in McCreary County. Mike Loiacano, '97-'98, who recently received a promotion from his position in McCreary County to Assistant Director for Human Service Missions in the Cumberland Valley region, says one morning he looked out his office window to see the foundation block and decking. Just a couple of hours later two walls were up.

Progress happens quickly with a dedicated group like the folks from Fox Valley (Wisc.) who spent one week on a building blitz in October. They have volunteered with us multiple times in the past and they bring a skilled group of volunteers who are practiced in working together to see construction happen quickly.

Before the Fox Valley crew arrived, Kevin Black, '96-'98, housing crew leader, gathered volunteers to prepare the site for them. As you can see the combination of our current volunteers and Fox Valley made progress that can only be described as awesome.

Randy Beckham, '07-'08, and CAP Chief Operating Officer says, "We are connecting tankless water heaters and other energy efficient options and we have positioned the house with a southern exposure so that we could potentially add solar panels. After WorkFest and YouthFest as the momentum of alumni support continues, we expect to resume work on the house and look for completion by summer or fall of 2011."



House benefits from October Blitz Build

Fox Valley volunteers share their thoughts

We asked the group: what would you like to tell the former volunteers who have financially and prayerfully supported the building of this house about what you have done this week?

Here's what some of them said.



Thank you for supporting this mission. Your money was used in the building of this beautiful center. Not only was it built with love but many prayers were prayed in it and for it. —Karen Mautk

Thank you for serving God financially so that we were allowed to serve him with our labour.—Mickey Kalies



We built it with love—may you live here in Christ's love.—Dennis Halbach

What an amazing gift you've given by going before our group. You have blessed not only the people of this community but us as well. Thank you for your gift to our King.—Holly Heiner



These gifts make it possible

In this season of giving and thanksgiving, it is with great appreciation that we acknowledge the following alumni and friends for their gifts to make our McCreary Volunteer House happen.

Judith Shue	Tiffany (Ritter) Silveira	David Costellow
Sue (Lotz) & Chad Loeffler	Mary Lattyak	Robert & Kerry Walker
Mary Ann Dedenbach	Kaylynn and Andrew Lantz	Elizabeth Bacha
Callista Scotto	Patricia Harmon	Joy Mosley
Beulah McDaniel	Jean Koppen	Kimberly Rice
Kevin & Ann Black	Randy & Rita Beckham	L. Ricke
Robert & Gwen Button	Jen Eich	Jeffrey & Carey Eiselt
Eleanor Shepard	Joy & David Fisher	Kathleen Leavell
Derrick & Sharon Koch	Amy Schill	Kiara & Charles West
Bill Grun	Michael Loiacono	Jerry & Carolyn Finley
Janet Heinz	Mary McNamara	Erin Kluesener
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Donald Schaeffer	Lucy Hayhurst	Deborah Johns
John & Paula Harris	Moe Kluesener	Julie Yates
Gabrielle Lassetter	Eilish Hathaway	Clyde and Linda Moffitt
Sister Emily Yuhas	Kenneth Theis	Bill Imhof
		Thelma and Denny Moore

This is the fastest growing and most exciting list the CAP CONNECTION has ever compiled—full of treasured memories, great generosity and a wonderful sense of unified support to those who will carry on what we were so privileged to be a part of!



If you would like to make a gift, be sure to designate that it is for the **McCreary House**. You may address it to:

Sr. Robbie Pentecost
Volunteers/Christian Partners
4192 N. Wilderness Rd.
Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

Online gifts can be made at www.christianapp.org.
Be sure to check the box indicating that your gift is for the **McCreary Volunteer Center!**

