

CAP Connection

A newsletter for volunteer alumni of the Christian Appalachian Project

Fall/Winter 2011



Volunteer capacity increases for CAP

CAP volunteers, employees, participants and faithful supporters have all been watching for the past year as the building projects at Camp Andrew Jackson and the McCreary volunteer house have progressed. The McCreary house is complete and the Camp AJ building will be finished soon. Both will enable CAP to expand its reach to more people in need.

Fox Valley Volunteers frame dorm

Those loyal Fox Valley Mission Group volunteers from



McCreary County volunteers are now living in their new home.

Wisconsin returned to Camp Andrew Jackson again this fall to carry the camp project toward its final completion. Their work during this trip resulted in the framing of the two-story counselor dorm.

Regional Assistant Director for Cumberland Valley **Mike Loiacono, '97 – '99**, sees the two-story dorm as being an important part of expanding CAP's work. "Until now, counselors had slept in the hot, cramped, top parts of the A-frames with limited cooking, meeting and devotion facilities," he says. "This dorm will have central heat/air, a full kitchen and space for counselor meetings. It will also be much easier to accommodate Housing work groups that stay at AJ for a week at a time."

More Housing volunteers will result in more home build-



This new dorm for Camp AJ counselors and groups will also make it easier for CAP to accommodate Housing volunteers.

ing and repair. CAP volunteers still visit people who live with broken windows, leaking roofs and crumbling stairs. Whether because of lack of money or physical ability to improve the home, volunteers again and again encounter program participants who are so thankful when their homes become more livable.

Director of Planning, Research & Development **Ken Stuber, '90 – '92**, is leading a team from CAP's Physical Support, Housing and Elderly Housing

Continued on page 3

CAP Quicks

Volunteers who served in **Family Advocacy (formerly Outreach Services)** might remember CAP's policy of asking participants to pay back one-third of what they were given. That policy has a new twist. Participants can also choose to "pay back" by taking a class, provided by CAP or the local

Extension office, or doing sweat equity, in some counties. In addition, the small farms and gardens program (formerly known as **Garden Seed**) is back as part of Family Advocacy.

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The Volunteer Program now has a new policy for the admission of **long-term volunteers**. Volunteers must commit

to one year and they will be admitted in January or August/September. Amy Schill, Coordinator of Recruitment/Alumni, says this change will provide more consistency and stability in the local community and within the volunteer house. Volunteer applications are now available online.

Continued on back page

From Across the Mountains

Dear CAP CONNECTION,

What a blast from the past reading about **Ken Curtin**. I volunteered with him from 68-70 as well. I was Fr. Beiting's secretary. I remember the vote buying incident very clearly as one of our friends, **Mary Previtera**, was in on it. We stay in touch along with **Ann Holloran**. I have lots of stories to share as well - like Fr. B's "Daniel Boone Club", on the road with him with a portable typewriter on my lap, mostly reports to the Bishop. That was quite a time in our country's history and I am honored to have been where I was and worked with such fantastic spirits. Will be grateful if you can pass my hello on to him.

Thanks,

Joan Boylan

1980s

Julie St. John Dunlap, '86-'88, reports that their oldest daughter, Anna, 20, is attending Berea College as a sophomore transfer student studying elementary education. Julie is homeschooling their four youngest children while son Ethan, 18, is working at a local greenhouse. Husband Nathan went to Tanzania, Africa, in February to teach pastors. He plans to return to Tanzania in 2012 to teach again. If anyone is interested in knowing more about this ministry, check out his blog at forwardinafrica.com.

1990s

Sonja Hoden Gifford, '98-'99 (volunteered in Mt. Vernon, Adult Education program) and husband Chazz welcomed

Claire Ann Gifford on May 13, 2011. "CAP got me hooked on bringing education and social service together so I'm still doing both. I'm a high school counselor in Boulder, Colorado. Old friends can find me on Facebook!"

Todd, '98-'99, and Jodi (Blom) Mullholand, '98-'00, welcomed a baby girl, Myra Olivia, on October 25, 2010. The couple also celebrated their 11-year wedding anniversary in September after having met and volunteered together at the Whitley House.



Robyn Renner, Lloyd Rice, Becky (Bordner) Perotti and Matt Perotti.

Becky (Bordner) Perotti, '97-'00, visited Kentucky with her husband Matt in September. Becky was pleased to reconnect with Robyn Renner, Manager of Family Advocacy and Housing, and Lloyd Rice, retired from CAP's Housing and Maintenance programs.

2000s

Charles and Kiara (Klister) West, '00-'02, welcomed Zoey's little sister, Lydia Mae West, on October 1. Kiara continues her work in CAP's Volunteer Program. Charles teaches special education at Lancaster Elementary School. The family lives in Richmond, Ky.

Patricia Coakley Wheeler, '03-'04, wrote that she served wonderful people during her time at the Magoffin House. "I

was in Harold Underwood's first volunteer group. Had good experience and made friends that I am still in contact with. Still have the volunteer spirit as I leave next week on a medical mission trip to Haiti with Reynoldsburg, Ohio United Methodist Church." Patricia also says she married three years ago and is enjoying her new life.

Besty DeDonder, Camp AJ 2008, short-term 2009, married Ben Jury on June 18. She graduated from University of St. Mary in May and passed the NCLEX-RN exam in June.



Betsy and Ben Jury.

Continued on page 3

CAP's website always welcomes visitors! Check the site now for this information:

- **How you can volunteer to recruit for CAP in your area**
- **Sign up to receive job postings from CAP and other nonprofits**
- **Read CAP Connection online**
- **Update your contact information**

Volunteer capacity increases for CAP

Continued from cover

Programs to complete details on the building before winter. This group is finishing the siding, doors, windows, fascia and soffit. The Volunteer Department will provide furnishings for the building. We hope the facility will be completed for use during WorkFest 2012, which begins in March.

McCreary volunteers have a house!

Through the years, CAP volunteers serving in McCreary County have lived in Somerset, Whitley City and in a trailer on the property of CAP's Eagle Community Center. Now, they have their own volunteer house just steps away from the community center where some of them serve. With this completion, Mike looks forward to CAP gaining more ground toward eliminating poverty in the county. He says work continues with the goal of making Eagle Community Center "... a model center that offers CAP's full-range of comprehensive services."

When volunteer housing was available only in the trailer, there were four volunteers to serve the county. Now there are six volunteers and there is capacity for more. The house has eight bedrooms, including a room designed to accommodate a married couple.

"The volunteers up until now have been troopers and worked and lived with the cheerful attitude that is typical of CAP volunteers, but always with the hope that they might be the ones to move into 'The House'," Mike says.

The volunteers are working in Housing, Child and Family Development, the after school SPARK program and the resurrected Elderly Services, which last had a volunteer in the county in 2004.



Although the McCreary volunteers put up with living in their cramped quarters (top photo), look at how happy moving into the house has made them.

The completion of a building project never means the end; it signals the beginning of the next step toward fulfilling the CAP mission.

From Across the Mountains

Continued from page 3



Jenna Boyd, '08-'09, married Andrew Garrett on July 30 in Virginia Beach, Va. CAP alums in attendance included: **Dana Nevins, '08-'09, Kim Rice, '08-'09, Jessica and Allen Hodges, '08-'09, and Jenny King, '08-'10.**

Would you like to receive the CAP Connection via e-mail only? Let us know by sending your name, postal address and e-mail address to: volunteer@chrisapp.org.

Thank you

Thanks to these former volunteers who represented CAP at a fair or provided hospitality to

Amy when she was on the road:

Carla Durand, '90-'91 Jen Luoma, '06-'07

Jim Fleming, '65-'66 Julia McStravog, '09-'10

Megan Kruse, '10-'11

Bridget McCormack, '10-'11

Mary McNamara, '94-'96

Mary Ann O'Connor, '09-'10

Ursula (Newton) Rossmann, '96-'97

CAP Quicks

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Did you know CAP will celebrate **50 years** of serving the people of Appalachia in 2014? Keep your eyes open for information about a volunteer reunion that will be tied to that anniversary celebration.

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In other volunteer news, **WorkFest** will be celebrating its 20-year anniversary in 2012.

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Grateful Threadz and Grateful Bread and the Family Advocacy office in Mt. Vernon will all be moving from the Williams Street location to a building closer to the other CAP offices in the valley. CAP is considering a new use for the downtown building.



Volunteer orientations continue to welcome enthusiastic new volunteers. This is the new group from September. Front: Olga Zeglinska (Ill.), Elizabeth Longcore (Mich.), Colleen Greene (Calif.), Erin Cusick (Ohio), Whitney Helton (Ind.), Therese Costello (N.Y.), Kelsey DeVesty (N.J.), Tim Haas (S.D.). Middle row: Jimmy Owsley (Nev.), Leah Coughlan (Mass.), Kate Turner (Maine), Vickie Citter (Tenn.), Lois Lockhart (Okla.), Sarah Smith (Minn.). Back row: Katelyn Phillips (N.Y.), Nick Galiardo (Ill.), David McCarthy (N.H.), Joe Sellner (Calif.), Chris Giorlando (N.Y.), Julianna O'Brien (Ohio), Eric Wenning (Ohio), Jo Ann Dugger (Ore.)

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CAP has called upon volunteers, board members, employees and former participants to work on a **strategic planning**

effort to re-evaluate the organization's goals and objectives. Everyone is looking forward to the ways this effort will help CAP serve the region even better in its next 50 years.

CAP Connection is published three times a year 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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