

CAP Connection

A newsletter for volunteer alumni of the Christian Appalachian Project

Summer 2007



Sister Kathleen Weigand lives and works in Floyd County, Ky. She believes her time with CAP helped her prepare for life as a Benedictine Sister.

CAP joins with Ichthus Ministries to reach thousands of young people

When the Ichthus team at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore approached CAP about helping with this year's music festival, President Bill Mills said "yes". For the first time, Ichthus wanted to offer attendees an opportunity to do service work in the region prior to the festival. So Bill asked Sherry Buresh, Assistant Director of Human Service Missions Disaster Relief, to work with CAP employees and volunteers and coordinate the effort. That turned out to be quite an undertaking, but one that those involved enjoyed and believe will benefit CAP for years to come.

Between June 14 and 16, CAP handed out 21,120 bottles of water with CAP logos to concert goers in Wilmore, Kentucky. They also provided information-packed portfolios for 500 youth leaders, a 10-unit shower trailer and more than 70 people to help staff the festival each day. That only scratches the surface of how CAP permeated the festival, attended by more than 20,000 people.

CAP's involvement began on Sunday, June 10 when five Ichthus youth groups reported to CAP for their pre-festival ser-

vice experiences. Approximately 80 volunteers worked on housing and home repairs as well as basic household tasks, like yard work, painting and window cleaning, for elderly residents. The experience helped participants live out their faith through service, which seems a fitting preamble to Ichthus which seeks to propel students in their spiritual quest and promote communities of faith. The venue for this is an outdoor Christian music festival which includes concerts by performers like Relient K, Ascension Band and Third Day, as well as teaching sessions and games that draw young people from multiple states.

CAP involvement started at the gate where Camp Shawnee

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Volunteers staff an information booth where potential future volunteers could learn about CAP opportunities.

Alumni Highlight: Sisters Carolyn Lambert and Kathleen Weigand

Two celebrate anniversary in eastern Kentucky

When the Benedictine Sisters of Mount Tabor celebrated their 25th anniversary as a congregation in June, two of the celebrants were former CAP volunteers. Sister Carolyn Lambert and Sister Kathleen Weigand both arrived at CAP as volunteers in the 1970s, Carolyn from Rhode Island and Kathleen from Pennsylvania. Little did they know in those early days

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Recruiter values CAP lifestyle

Amblynn Allen didn't expect to be working for CAP two years after graduating from Notre Dame. College is a time when she feels people can be self-centered, so to balance that experience Amblynn had anticipated doing some service work for a short period of time after graduation. At

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Recruiter values CAP lifestyle

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the two-year mark she thought she might be putting her degree in environmental science to work. Nonetheless, CAP beckoned.

WorkFest initially drew Amblyn to CAP during her freshman and junior years of school. "I knew that I wanted to do some kind of service program when I graduated," Amblyn says. CAP presented an inviting picture to her. "It seemed to have a really good community foundation and I wanted to be part of that community."

As a volunteer, Amblyn worked in outreach in Owsley and Clay Counties while living in Jackson County. She was also part of the crew that spent some weeks in post-Katrina Mississippi providing aid. As a volunteer recruiter, she now has the opportunity to extend those

sorts of experiences to others.

"I think that for a lot of people they've never had the opportunity to live the lifestyle CAP offers," she says. That lifestyle includes residing in a caring community where people look after one another while doing service work that really makes a difference. "You're given the support you need to really serve people," she says.

She also sees CAP's volunteer experience as flexible in terms of length of service and start dates that some other service programs don't allow.

Amblyn works with Amy Schill, the other volunteer recruiter. She points out that it's a unique coincidence that Amy was a junior participating in WorkFest when Amblyn was a freshman. When Amblyn traveled to CAP for her volun-



Amblyn Allen and Jackson volunteer housemates: Mary Houck, Alex Horning, Stephanie Linder and John Schmitt.

teer interview, it was Amy who conducted the interview for her replacement in outreach. And now, they're working together in the volunteer program. "We've kind of followed the same path through CAP," she says.

And though she originally thought she might be putting her environmental science degree to work by now, Amblyn is very happy to be working in the volunteer department for an organization that encourages prayer and offers chapel time. "I feel very lucky to be here."

A message from the new manager

By Kathleen Leavell

I heard a wonderful story from Gary Smith of the Family Life Child and Family Development Center about three-year-old Simon, who would not speak. The staff, as well as several therapists, had spent countless hours with him.

While the other children sang and chatted on the bus, Simon was usually sound asleep long before Gary pulled up at his home in the country. Not a day passed that Gary didn't whisper a prayer for Simon as he exited the bus in silence.

One afternoon, as he was calling in vain for Simon to wake

up, Gary smiled and said: "Simon, if you don't wake up and get off this bus I'm going to take you home with me and make you feed my chickens!"

Simon struggled to his feet, gathered his papers and coat, and as he walked down the steps of the bus, he turned and sneered to Gary, "You ain't got no chickens."

Gary cried all the way back to the Center.

I share this story because it reminds me of so many volunteers who leave and wonder if they made a difference here: wonder what became of their hard work and sacrifices. Maybe it is not for them to know. Maybe that's what brings the faith to their gift of service.

We may not know when or how, but be assured that your hard work and sacrifices, do surface here, in unexpected moments, witnessed by others who, like Gary, will simply tear up and thank God for the honor of being a part of God's work in Appalachia.

Thank You

A prayer of thanksgiving for our alumni who passed on the love of service to a future generation of volunteers. A number of our summer volunteers were a direct result of those referrals and we appreciate your enthusiasm in continuing to support CAP.

From Across the Mountains

Julie St. John Dunlap, '86 – '88, and her husband Nathan live in Casey County, Kentucky, approximately 10 miles outside of Liberty. Nathan has been building a house for their family of eight, which includes children who range from three-years-old to 16. They hope to see their house completed next year.

The Dunlap family includes (from top): Julie (holding Jonathan), Nathan, Anna, Svetlana, Ethan,



Susanna and Irina Joy.

Beth Dotson Brown, '90 – '91, is now a first-time book author with the publication of *Yes! I Am Catholic*, by St. Mary's Press. For the book, Beth interviewed 39 people about why they choose to be Catholic. One interview is with **Mary McNamara, '94 – '96**. In the book, Mary says: "It's hard to hear the voice of God in the world among all the materialism, but I strive to hear it. I live out my faith by being joyful, loving (others) and working toward justice in the world. My faith has given me a moral compass that has guided me through my secular work, my political activity, my family." For more information about the book, and to get in touch with Beth, visit her website at www.bethdotsonbrown.net.

Julie (Otto) Schmitz, '96 – '97, married Ryan Schmitz on



Anthony, Sara and Adeline Mendoza



Kim Otto and Julie (Otto) Schmitz

May 26 in Omaha, Nebraska. Julie's sister **Kim (Otto), '96 – '98**, was her maid of honor. Congratulations Julie!

Amy Stevens Yost, '96 – '97, completed the Boston Marathon in April and raised \$4535 (more than \$1500 over her goal) for The ALLY Foundation. Although the California girl was anticipating snowy, cold weather as the forecasters predicted, she found the weather to be



Amy Stevens Yost

ideal for the 26.2 mile run. She wrote, "My final time was 4:19:53, which was four minutes faster than my first marathon. So don't ever let anyone

tell you that younger is better!"

While in Boston, Amy visited The ALLY Foundation, named for Alexandra Nicole Zapp, who was murdered by a convicted sex offender in Massachusetts.

Anthony, '00 – '01 and '02 – '03, and Sara Mendoza, '03 – '04, welcomed daughter Adeline into the world on May 7. She was eight pounds 6.6 ounces and 21 inches long. The family lives in Lexington, Ky.

Leanna Immel, '04 – '05, graduated from Santa Clara University with her teaching credential in May, 2006. She now teaches third grade at Montclare Elementary School in Los Altos, California. You can reach Leanna at leanna_immel@hotmail.com.

Sara Beth Kingery, '05 – '06, is living in Wilmore, Kentucky and studying part-time for her masters degree at Asbury Seminary while working full time at

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CAP joins with Ichthus Ministries

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volunteers helped Ichthus staff members with gate security. **Vinnie Caputo**, a returning CAP alum, said she didn't know what to expect when she heard the entire camp crew would be volunteering at Ichthus. They checked bags and welcomed in the excited crowd. It turned out to be a really fun event. "It was awesome," Vinnie says.

Once inside, attendees encountered CAP in the Game Zone, as well as activity centers such as Dance Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero. In CAP's vendor tent they sold everything from sun-

screen to cameras bearing the CAP logo. CAP also staffed an information tent and provided a misting bridge where concertgoers could get relief from the heat. Bill Mills

spoke on the main stage and CAP



Megan Goble won the opportunity to sing on the mainstage.

staff distributed items such as T-shirts, Frisbees, bandanas and draw string bags with CAP logos.

CAP garnered extra attention through an Ichthus-sponsored American Idol-like contest which camp staffer Megan Goble entered. Megan said she was walking by the audition tent when some of her friends pushed her inside. "We all know she has an amazing voice because she sings for us every morning at chapel," Vinnie says.

Seven-hundred-and-fifty people auditioned for a chance to sing on the main stage on Saturday night. When they called to tell Megan she was the winner, she says "I couldn't believe it . . . I was completely flabbergasted."

It was a peak experience for Megan, who is from Prestonsburg and attended Camp Shawnee as a child then later began working at the camp as a temporary employee. "I feel like CAP has always been a part of my life," she says.

Before she went on stage, Megan prayed with CAP president Bill Mills, as well as a team of people from Asbury College. When she ascended the stage, she saw a line of her CAP friends in the crowd who had written in body-sized letters on their shirts Go Megan! Then she began to sing Amazing Grace, performing with the Ascension Band. "I felt like it was just me and God up there," she says.

The Ichthus experience was a new frontier for CAP, and one they are likely to explore further. According to Amy Schill, CAP gathered the names of as many people who are interested in receiving information in volunteering in that weekend as the volunteer program usually gathers in an entire recruiting season. They'll be sending out information packets for months to come.

Goodbye Steve

In June the volunteer program bid farewell to employee and former volunteer Steve Laudenslager with good wishes. Steve is resuming his career as a truck driver. God bless, Steve!

Send us your news, message or memories from across the mountains

Your former volunteer friends want to know what you're doing these days! Please send us any news, message or memories you would like to share. We'll publish your news in an upcoming edition of the **CAP Connection**. Send to: Kathy Kluesener, Volunteer Program, 4192 North Wilderness Rd., Mt. Vernon, KY 40456 or e-mail us at volunteer@chrisapp.org

Name:

Street Address:

State: Zip: Phone:

E-mail:

Years you volunteered:

Your message:

Alumni Highlight: Sisters Carolyn Lambert and Kathleen Weigand

Two celebrate anniversary in eastern Kentucky

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that they would still be living in the mountains today.

Carolyn volunteered with Bible school, the elderly visitation program and the attic store in Berea before being assigned to child development and day care even though she had no desire to work with children. Although she initially resisted the assignments to work with children, she now realizes, "That was a gift."

Kathleen, who many people know as Kate, first served as a

volunteer at the Sunshine Center in Lancaster then as director of Little World Day Care Center in Stanford.

It was through a friend who was interested in visiting a group of Catholic sisters in eastern Kentucky that Kathleen was introduced to the real possibility of a religious vocation. She credits her community experience with CAP and Father Beiting's ability to recognize her gifts with helping her prepare for her life as a Benedictine Sister.

"Everybody's on a journey and God puts people in our lives to help us on that journey," she says. She believes that "If we take time for prayer and meditation," what we are to do with our lives will become evident.

When she finished her volunteer commitment in 1981, Carolyn returned home to Rhode Island to pursue a degree in early childhood education. After earning her degree, what became evident to Carolyn was that she should return to Ken-

tucky. Besides earning a degree, she had also explored the possibility of a religious vocation. But the community she initially joined didn't suit her.

In Kentucky, Carolyn went to visit Kathleen at Mt. Tabor and realized all religious communities don't operate in the same fashion. This time around, she says, "I knew what to look for . . . it was the whole style of prayer and community."

Carolyn's ministry has continued to be with young children. She worked at the Mountain Christian Academy for some years and today is a resource and referral specialist for the Eastern Kentucky Childcare Coalition.

Kathleen also worked at the Mountain Christian Academy and today is executive director of St. Vincent's Mission. The mission has a variety of programs to serve the elderly, disabled and working poor such as a food pantry, emergency assistance and volunteer program. It operates David Appalachian Crafts.

"I love working with the local people. I learn so much from them," Kathleen says. She also enjoys hosting volunteers, whose

generosity impresses her. Her job, Kathleen says, "Gives me an opportunity to see God within others."

During their years in eastern Kentucky, Carolyn and Kathleen have seen their religious community evolve. Today, they are becoming an ecumenical community because of the influence of the mountain area. They also have an oblate program, through which people who want to live out the Benedictine lifestyle can be associated with them for support.

"People are searching for spirituality," Kathleen says. And up on the mountain where Mount Tabor's Dwelling Place Monastery sits, many visitors say they find peace, the same sort of peace that Carolyn and Kathleen find in their work and community.

The Dwelling Place Monastery welcomes visitors for retreats. For more information, contact them at 606-886-9624 or <http://www.geocities.com/athens/9871/Ret2.html>.

"Everybody's on a journey and God puts people in our lives to help us on that journey."

Your continuing gift of service . . .



. . . are our newest volunteers at their orientation and commissioning service in June. Pictured are: Joan Breckenridge, Volunteer Groups, Va.; Taye Spink, Elderly Services, Wis.; Sarah Fackender, Housing Program, Fla.; Andrew Lantz, Housing Program, W. Va.; Tiffany Ritter, Adult Education, Pa.; Heather Konkell, Housing Program, Texas; Ross Peters, Outreach Services, Ohio. Rita Beckham, Human Service Missions, Ky.; Anna Waechter, Housing Program, Ohio; Laura LeCompte, Housing Program, Ill.; and Monica Thompson, Housing Program, Md. Not pictured is Randy Beckham, Human Service Missions, Ky.

Welcome New Alums

Please join us in giving thanks for the following volunteers who have left their unique reflection of God's presence in

Phyllis Hanna	Alice Miller
Amber Martin	Jessica Conley
Judy Adamic	Katie Hunt
Laura Thompson	Nathan Carrier
Susan Sleeman	Danielle Rivet
Linda Belcher	Eilish Hathaway
Lois Dempsey	Kati Gilbert
Michael Petruolo	Kristen Kniepkamp
Amblyn Allen	Nick Favazza
Katherine Grimmett	Nicole St. Onge
Brian Briscoe	Christen Cutler
Deborah Wallace	Michael Halphen
Lucy Summerville	Tommye Halphen
Jenni Busse	Staci Bloemker
Gwen Button	Alisha Rust
Robert Button	Thomas Muhs
Melissa Tran	Christine Carlson
Alena Neton	Darlene Rogers
Elizabeth Mihok	Elizabeth McGrain
Terry Akens	Jolene Wee
Liz Berling	Meghan Casey
Liz Tiemeier	Paul Stage
Patricia Schmitt	Rachel Boss
Nora Machek	Kim Paulus
Patricia Law	Graham McLaughlin



Two former volunteers stopped by the volunteer office to say hello. Pictured are: Amblyn Allen, '05-'07, Kiara West '00-'02, Stacie West, '03 - '04, (who now works for the Pallotti Center in Washington, D.C.), Sarah McNamara, '03-'04, (who lives and work in Ohio) and Amy Schill, '03-'05.

From Across the Mountains

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a nursing home in Lexington. Sara Beth's fiance, Tony, is studying at Asbury and the two will be married in December in their home state of Pennsylvania. You can reach Sara Beth at november-sarah@yahoo.com.

Condolences

CAP extends condolences to the family of Sandy Tucker, co-founder of the Galilean Children's Home in Casey County. Many CAP volunteers have spent time at the Galilean Home, including Julie St. John Dunlap, '86 - '88. Julie says the year she lived and worked at the home they housed 99 children with various special needs.

The Tuckers were a strong presence in the local community. Julie reminisced that Sandy helped deliver their first two children.

Sandy Tucker died in June of cancer.

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