

CAP Connection

A newsletter for volunteer alumni of the Christian Appalachian Project

Spring 2008



Alumni continue to serve

Like many volunteers who complete their service with CAP, Ursula (Newton) Rossman, '96 - '97, left to go into the working world, use her education, build a life with her husband, Matt, and start a family. Yet even though those were the same things many people around her were doing, Ursula felt like something was missing. "I thought, 'Wait a minute, surely this isn't all. Surely there can be more,'" she remembers.

Part of what was missing was the cohesiveness of living in a volunteer community where prayer, service, friendships and community were all intertwined. In Cleveland, where Ursula was living, she felt her life had become segmented.

For Ursula, the solution arrived through the community of Sant'Egidio. The faith-based group provides a community in which members live their faith through prayer and service. "Here is a group of people who are committed to supporting one another in this way of living the

gospel, praying together, and living a life of service to the poor lived out in friendship," she explains.

It's not unusual for people who have experienced that sort of community with CAP to seek another such group after they complete their volunteer service. **Kathy (Watkins) Causey, '91 - '93**, did the same thing. After she married David Causey in 2003, they joined a local group gather-



Kathy (Watkins) Causey enjoys the children at the Orthopedic Training Center in Ghana.

ing for prayer and discussion about peace and justice issues.

"Without that, I could totally just be in touch with teaching," says Kathy, an elementary school teacher. The group keeps her connected to the world and the less fortunate in a way simi-

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Richie and Clare (Kaiser) Kincaid with Josh, Anna Lee and Cathy.

Alumni Highlight: Clare Kincaid

Jackson County work

bleses former volunteer

During a Christmas visit to her parents' house in Nebraska, Clare (Kaiser) Kincaid, '96 - '98, found Fr. Beiting's autobiography and it drew her in. Afterwards, she says, "I couldn't get it out of my mind."

So a couple of years later, Clare found herself visiting CAP to check out the volunteer program. She signed on for nine

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Grateful Threads opens

The new CAP food pantry, The Grateful Bread, opened in Mount Vernon and has served more than 300 families in three months. Now, another new endeavor is beginning in the same William St. building that so many volunteers remember as the CAP Teen Center, Outreach office and more. In April, Grateful Threads is opening to

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Alumni Highlight Jackson County work blesses former volunteer

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months back in 1996 and found what she believes she is meant to be doing. "It's in my heart to do this work and I don't really

Welcome New Alums

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

Daniel Bannon
Paul Clark
Alfred Crist
Joan Culberson
Sarah Fackender
Allison Jirak
Cathy Jirak
Taye Spink
James Zeirke

Let us pray

This little corner gives us all an opportunity to pray together as we did as volunteers. Please send us your own prayer requests so we can pray together. Let us remember:

✠ **Joshua Mills**, son of CAP president **Bill Mills**, who continues to struggle with health issues;

✠ WorkFest volunteer **Glenn Hodge's, '00 - '08**, wife, **Sharon**, who is ill.

✠ **prospective volunteers** who are discerning a call to serve our children at summer camp;

✠ remember by name, in prayer, a particular family you served as a volunteer.



see it as work, it's just who I am," she says.

After serving at Camp A.J. and as an outreach volunteer at the Jackson House, Clare moved into employment with CAP and has continued to serve the people of Jackson County as an outreach worker.

No two days in her office are the same. In Owsley and Jackson Counties, Clare assists with WorkFest, helps people who have had their utilities disconnected, gets a credit report for a family buying a home, works on applications for senior commodity distribution and organizes community events, like a Spring Fling in Owsley County that includes an Easter egg hunt for children. "It changes so much every day."

Some of what Clare does as a CAP employee derives from what she learned as a volunteer. "In the volunteer house, I saw the bigger picture with families," she recalls. Because volunteers served in various programs that address a variety of family needs, Clare gained a more well-rounded understanding of the issues facing families in Jackson County. She developed a preference for giving people resources rather than giving them things

Grateful Threads opens

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provide community members with a place to buy affordable clothing as well as offer a training ground for participants at Healing Rain, the Family Life Abuse Center and Adult Education.

Program manager Peggy Hancock says the plan is for participants to learn retail skills for

because it is sometimes better for the long-term health of the family. "I learned I can offer the resources but it's up to them to use them."

As a volunteer, Clare also felt her spirituality was blessed by getting to know people from various religious backgrounds. That aspect of life in Jackson County continues to touch her because, "People here are much more open to sharing of themselves and their faith because it is so much a part of who they are."

Another thing Clare appreciates about her life in Jackson County is the slow pace. "That's my style," she says.

Even though she claims that as her style, Clare's home life can be as varied and busy as her work life. She is married to Richie Kincaid, coordinator at Camp Andrew Jackson, and lives in Tyner with their children, Josh, Cathy, Anna Lee and Susan.

How does Clare keep up with everything she does and not get burned out by her work? She's not really sure, but perhaps it's because of a habit she has cultivated. "I ask God daily to guide and direct me," she says. She followed that guidance to Kentucky and now has a new place to call home.

two to three months in an initiative called Jump Start. After that initial training, they will be hired as temporary, part-time employees in the store so they can earn money for their first month's rent once they complete the CAP program in which they are enrolled. So Grateful Threads will fulfill multiple goals and extend CAP's ability to reach even more people in need.

From Across the Mountains



Jo'e Lynn (Lightner) Short, '01 – '03, celebrated her wedding to David Short at the Middlefork United Methodist Church in Thousandsticks, Ky. with CAP friends Tonya Mulrooney, '01 – '03, Amy Schill '03 - 05, Stephanie (Meyers) Hagan, '01, Jo'e, Edna O'Brien-Backe, '02 – '03, and Jen Eich, '01 – '03.

from the manager

Countless Gifts; Countless Prayers

By Kathleen Leavell

Whenever we pray for the family of a CAP alum who has passed away, I think of those participants here at CAP whose lives God blessed through that volunteer. I am convinced that the people of Appalachia hold a part of the spirit of the volunteers long after their departure. I believe whenever they are renewed in their own faith, encouraged in their own heart, and strengthened in their own perseverance, our people here connect with the spirit of the volunteers who served them.

I think it will be easy for the **Klister** family to connect with this spirit as they mourn the passing of their mother and wife **Vera**, whom everyone knew as **Beep**. She raised a whole family of CAP volunteers. **Beep** and her husband **David** came here with their church to help in housing. Their daughter **Leah**, '05, and son **Greg**, '06, were camp counselors here. Daughter **Katie**, '03 - '04, was a one year volunteer working in our Child and Family Development Center and daughter **Kiara** came as a volunteer in 2000 and is still with us. She now supervises our Volunteer Life program sharing the same values she learned from her parents.

The Klister family has left so many gifts at CAP that it would be hard to meet someone who hasn't been touched by their spirit. We hope they are sensing the prayerful support of the countless Kentucky spirits who have been blessed by God through this wonderful family.

Jon and Heather Fields, '95 – '96, welcomed another addition to the family in December – Elizabeth Ann. They now have four girls and three boys and live in Charles City, Iowa.

Bonnie McDonald, '92, recently visited former volunteer friends in Kentucky, along with her daughter Olivia, an eighth-grader, then moved further east to volunteer with CAP during their winter break. Bonnie works part-time as a clinical psychologist. She lives with her husband and two

daughters in Marblehead, Mass.

Faith Wilhite, '94, passed away peacefully on February 22, 2008 just short of her 89th birthday. Faith was a CAP community volunteer in Lancaster for a few years before returning home to Texas.



Last month we updated you on The Ogilvie family – Don, Katie (Gisch), '96 - '98, and Madeline Grace . This month we can add a photo!

Send us your news, message, memories or prayer requests

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

Name:

Street address:

City:

State: Zip:

Years you volunteered:

E-mail:

Phone:

Your message:

Alumni continue to serve

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lar to what CAP did.

While the group does service in their area, it also led Kathy and David to take a mission trip to Ghana in the summer of 2007. They spent two weeks volunteering at the Orthopedic Training Center in Nsawan, Ghana.

One aspect of the time there that still stands out to Kathy is, "We have so much here yet we feel deprived. They have so little but they feel blessed each day by all they have."

Kathy also remembers the community among the patients, ninety-five percent of whom had prosthetic devices, creating difficulties in the rough terrain. "If someone falls, one of the other kids will pick them up. They all just help each other."

Kathy says one reason she volunteers is that her parents raised her with a strong faith and part of that is to do for others.

Louis Kluesener, '06, has experienced something similar while volunteering with the Pas-



Louis Kluesener and Jamaican friends.

sionist Volunteers International in Jamaica. After his CAP experience, Louis sought out opportunities to volunteer overseas. "I've loved volunteering in Jamaica so much I decided to take up the second year," he says.

Although life is not easy for the Jamaican people, Louis has found them to be fun and very loving and he enjoys the sense of community. "So often in the States, we lock ourselves in the house. Folks in Jamaica sit outside and enjoy each other's company," he says.

He especially treasures the children. He recounts how when he's heading out of a small rural

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has assisted our traveling volunteer recruiters, Amy Schill and Amblyn Allen, during the past few months. We especially want to thank:

Chad and Laurie Bauer, '99 - '01

Cara Sukolsky, '04 - '06

Jo'e Lynn (Lightner) Short, '01 - '03

community that he serves, the children accompany him to the bus stop.

Back in Cleveland, the Community of San Egidio helps Ursula maintain contact with the world beyond her own household and her country. She also believes the community helps her live out the call of the gospel to "do unto others."

Regardless of where former CAP volunteers go, they carry with them the spirit of service and community.

If you have a story of service to share, please contact us at

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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