Camp AJ nears completion of Phase 2

After months of help from various volunteers and groups, Camp Andrew Jackson is nearing the completion of Phase 2 of its renovation. WorkFest 2011 volunteers became the first large group to use the improved facility in March and Program Manager Liz Phelps happily heard their positive reviews. Hot water—always a premium during WorkFest—was much more plentiful, and there were enough outlets that none of the breakers tripped. Anyone who has stayed at Camp AJ knows what an improvement that was.

Volunteer Kerri Weiseman also noticed the difference the changes made for WorkFest. “It’s definitely been an improvement for cooking,” she says. A major kitchen overhaul expanded that area three feet into the dining room. Although Liz worried about losing that dining space, it hasn’t been an issue because they also installed a new, walk-in cooler and freezer combination. That meant they could remove the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp AJ Renovation Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 1 (complete)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinyl siding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 2 (complete)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming pool renovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s bathroom renovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major kitchen overhaul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 3 (still to come)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace camp office with two-story dorm to house 40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Volunteers return to Camp Shawnee as a couple

Staci (Bloemker) and Brian Vanderpool met while volunteering at Camp Shawnee so it’s no surprise that when they left to work and spend time near Staci’s family in Atlanta they knew they wanted to return. Since camp was their passion, that’s where they’ve signed on to serve once again.

“We really wanted camp to be running again and we wanted to be a part of that,” Staci says.

Like at Camp AJ, Camp Shawnee was also closed to campers last year. It has undergone several upgrades, especially in the dining room and kitchen which have new tile and new cabinets.

“Every day it’s something new. We love camp a lot and

Continued on page 3

Alumni Highlight: Amy Nee

Catholic Worker provides a new kind of community

Sometimes faith elicits all sorts of questions about how to actually be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world today. Former volunteer Amy Nee, ’06-’07, has been exploring those questions for the past few years. First she volunteered with CAP, then worked for CAP and now she’s part of a Catholic Worker community in Chicago.

Although Kentucky was appealing to Amy, the idea of living in a community was not. Amy says she was “socially uncomfortable” and wondered why she couldn’t just do the service without the community living. Her years of experience have now taught her one of the reasons it’s important. “I don’t know that you can do justice work in a healthy way unless you do it with a community.”

During her volunteer time, she began to see that people have different ideas about how to live as Jesus in the world.

Continued on page 3
Andrew Wegrzyn, ’07-’08, and wife Amanda, WorkFest 2005, welcomed daughter Clare Marie in May 2010. Andy is currently working on his PhD doing research with children with autism using MRI and other neuroimaging methods. The family lives in Columbia, Missouri.

Marie Hudak, ’07-’08, was married last year to Joseph Celkupa. They now reside in their new home in Florence, New Jersey.

Julia McStravog, ’09-’10, is volunteering with the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In the fall she will begin a Master’s program in Interreligious Dialogue at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Deanna Mullins, ’04 – ’06, is the mother of a growing family. Miguel was born September 1, 2007 and Letisia Marlene was born in February. Deanna will graduate in August with Associate’s Degrees in Business Management and Accounting. The family lives in Pikeville, Kentucky.

Renee Quirion, ’97, has been working for Maine General Health Reach with the Assertive Community Treatment Team. That team provides community treatment to people with severe and persistent mental illness. Renee continues to remember CAP in her prayers.

Sister Therese Tackett, OSF, ’07-’10, is living at Oldenburg, Indiana where she’s recovering from an accident that required the amputation of her leg. In her typical spirit of giving, Sister Therese says she feels very blessed that this experience has brought her the opportunity to minister to many people she met while in the hospital and rehabilitation, offering her prayers and those of the community to people who confided their needs to her. There’s no doubt that we’ll continue to hear stories of her service wherever she is.

Sister Caroline Lambert is continuing her recovery at Mount Tabor monastery and is so grateful for the prayerful support she’s received from her CAP alumni family.

Jon and Heather Fields, ’95 - ’96, enjoyed Christmas in Iowa with their eight children.
**Catholic Worker provides a new kind of community**

Continued from cover
Not everyone wanted it to be difficult, she says. Through the many wonderful relationships, she learned that for her, being a good person required more than just being nice. “I wanted solidarity with the poor.”

For 10 months, Amy volunteered in adult education and learned to live in a community of frequently changing members. Because she was in the Rockcastle House, she had to adjust to volunteers sometimes staying there for only a couple of nights during interviews or transitions. Slowly, Amy became more comfortable with living in that sort of community. She then moved on to work as an employee at Healing Rain, the CAP substance abuse recovery shelter. When it felt like time to search for her next move, Amy found a friend in Chicago who needed help caring for her infant. So off Amy went to become a nanny.

In Chicago, she enrolled in a class offered near her home about Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day. That’s when Amy fell in love. She read the autobiography of Dorothy Day and knew she had found a calling in the Catholic Worker movement that she needed to follow.

Amy sees similarities between the Catholic Worker movement and CAP in that both are based on three pillars of spirituality, community and service.

In recent months, Amy’s Catholic Worker community has been working on the farm they started, traveled to D.C. with a group called Witness Against Torture and completed an Agents of Nonviolent Change Certification. This summer Amy will be teaching a sustainable living course through Loyola University. To help support the community, she continues doing child care work.

In retrospect, Amy can now see that living in the volunteer community made this possible. People often cycle through the Catholic Worker house, whether for a meal or for a night. Recently, she says, everyone around the table was speaking Spanish, which she doesn’t understand. But she was okay with that. The group also faced the challenge of offering hospitality to a man with mental illness.

Amy says it’s easy to think that after serving with CAP, it’s time to return to a regular job, family, etc. She encourages people to be open to other possibilities and to visit her Catholic Worker house. “Come and see. A lot of us are looking for an alternative way of living.” That’s what Amy has found in her search to imitate Jesus Christ.

**Volunteers return to Camp Shawnee as a couple**

Continued from cover
we’re passionate about it,” Staci says. Besides preparing camp for the summer, they’ve also been working locally with children through the school. They’re teaching character education classes at Allan Middle School and doing an after school program with the Martin Child Development Center.

Brian is the son of Wanda Murphy who works in CAP’s Hagerhill office as a benefits technician. CAP has always been a part of Brian’s life, and we’re so grateful for the gifts he and Staci will share with Shawnee over the next year.

Placed this spring, that, as well as the pool, are things the campers will notice this summer. “All the campers are going to be very excited to see all the changes,” Kerri says.

Liz says that after more than 30 years of use, the property definitely needed to be updated. “It truly does impact just about any program that uses it,” she says. “Hopefully it will last well beyond the next 20 years.” Phase 3 doesn’t yet have an official start date, but we hope to begin in the Fall.

**Camp AJ nears completion**

Continued from cover
appliances in the dining room, thus providing more room.
Before summer camp begins at the end of June, a few more tasks will be completed. Liz says the lake dock will be re-placed this spring. That, as well as the pool, are things the campers will notice this summer. “All the campers are going to be very excited to see all the changes,” Kerri says.

Liz says that after more than 30 years of use, the proper-ty definitely needed to be up-dated. “It truly does impact just about any program that uses it,” she says. “Hopefully it will last well beyond the next 20 years.”

Phase 3 doesn’t yet have an official start date, but we hope to begin in the Fall.
Former volunteers contribute in new positions

Several former CAP volunteers have recently joined CAP as employees or moved into new positions in which they can further share their talents in the region.

CAP management has two new Regional Assistant Directors with whom many volunteers are very familiar. Mike Loiacono, ’97-’98, has moved into the position of Regional Assistant Director for Cumberland Valley. Owen Wright is now the Regional Assistant Director for Sandy Valley. Both are assisting Anita Seals, Director of Human Services Missions.

The CAP Board of Directors welcomes Sister Kathleen Weigand, ’79-’82, into their ranks. Sister Kathleen has previously been a CAP volunteer and then a CAP employee. She began serving in the mountains in the 1970s and continues as the Executive Director of St. Vincent Mission in David, Kentucky.

Mike O’Brien, ’08-’09, and Jenny King, ’08-’10, recently joined CAP as employees. Mike serves as a teacher at Eagle Child and Family Development in McCreary County, and Jenny works out of Rockcastle County as the coordinator of Family Advocacy and Christian Partners.

Welcome back!

New orientation class

CAP has once again welcomed a new orientation class to share their gifts in the mountains. We welcome: Staci (Bloemker) Vanderpool, Brian Vanderpool, Eric Dempsey, Chris Ward, Meghan Rader, Carrie Holdsworth and Kerri Weiseman. Staci previously volunteered in Housing and Camp Shawnee and Brian and Kerri are former summer camp volunteers at Camp Shawnee and Camp AJ respectively.

Thank you

Thank you Jim Fleming, ’65-’66, for all of your help with volunteer fairs!

Send us your news, message, memories or prayer requests

Please send us any message you would like to share in an upcoming edition of the CAP Connection to: Volunteer Program, 4192 North Wilderness Rd., Mt. Vernon, KY 40456 or volunteer@chrisapp.org.

Name: 
Phone: 

Street address: 
City: 

State: 
Zip: 

Years you volunteered: 
E-mail: 

Your message: