

# CAP Connection



A newsletter for volunteer alumni of the Christian Appalachian Project

Winter 2007

## WorkFest invigorates staff and volunteers

In March when, after a long winter, CAP staff busily prepared for the arrival of college students who chose to spend their spring breaks doing service work. This year, WorkFest involved 42 schools and approximately 400 volunteers. Volunteers stayed at Camp Caleb in Johnson County and repaired homes in Magoffin and Lawrence Counties. Others were at Camp Andrew Jackson and repaired homes in Owsley and Clay Counties.

Kiara West, Manager of Volunteer Life and WorkFest, says this year's crews built several additions and did roofing as well as completed tasks such as porch and foundation repair and installed

siding and windows.

"One of the things I like best about WorkFest is that it infuses CAP with energy," Kiara says. "It's great to see the excitement that brings."

Kiara is also aware that many of the students who volunteer are having their first service experience and learning for the first time about CAP. Although it is a good recruit-

ing tool for the Volunteer Program (at least three of the present long-term volunteers are former WorkFest participants), Kiara said she also hoped the week would "broaden their horizons about what service means and what that can do for them, no matter where they go in the future."

Many of the short-term volunteers return to WorkFest year after year. Reuniting with folks who have volunteered before, Kiara says, is always a joy.

WorkFest took place this year from March 4 through March 23.



## Spiritual Adoption program supports volunteers

CAP staff members and former volunteers are supporting current volunteers through the Spiritual Adoption program.

Kathleen Leavell worked with Kim Otto to establish the spiritual adoption program approximately three years ago. "Having been a volunteer and an employee, I'm always happy to find anything that can bridge the two," Kathleen says. While employees have a high regard for volunteers, she says they don't often have the opportunity to express that. The spiritual adoption program is a way to make volunteers aware of that support while providing a spiritual connection.

Spiritual "adopters" receive the name of a volun-

teer, basic information about them and the prayer that volunteer has written for his or her term. Kathleen encourages those who adopt volunteers to put the prayer on their computer so they will be reminded to pray for the volunteer daily. She explains that correspondence with the volunteer isn't required, but is an option if the adopter so chooses.

Kathleen says that during chapel at the Lancaster office, employees were already praying for the volunteers, but the volunteers weren't necessarily aware of it. Having the Spiritual Adoption program lets volunteers know of the prayerful support of their work.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Reunion update: The alumni reunion scheduled for June 29-July 1, 2007 has been postponed. We apologize for any inconvenience.**

## Alumni Highlight

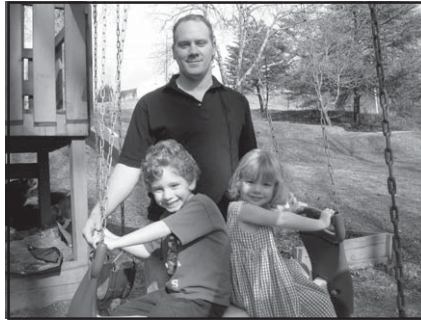
# Former volunteer expanded McCreary County work

Whether at home or at work, these days Mike Loiacono is surrounded by children. At home, he and his wife Elizabeth have two sons and one daughter. At Eagle Child Development Center where Mike is the manager, there's a building full of pre-school students and a community center filled with other young people who are participating in an after-school program.

Mike first arrived at Eagle as a volunteer in 1997. While attending graduate school at the University of Minnesota, the upstate New York native met former volunteer **Sue Lotz, '90 – '92**, who told him about CAP. Mike accompanied Sue to see friends in Kentucky and took the opportunity to learn more about CAP. "Everybody I met was incredible," Mike recalls. "I thought 'If this is the kind of people CAP has I want to be here.'"

When Mike was completing his volunteer term, Eagle's long-time manager, Jean Barnes, was preparing to move into a different job with CAP. After looking at possible candidates, Jean approached Mike about taking the job. She dispelled his fear that he wasn't qualified and he's been working as the manager since.

Eagle Child Development Center has traditionally served infants and toddlers with an in-home program for three-, four- and



*Mike Loiacono and two of his children, Joshua and Maia, enjoy some time in their yard.*

five-year-olds in the school. But things in the community changed in 2005 when the county consolidated its elementary schools and closed Eagle Elementary, which is next to the Child Development Center. "When the elementary school left, that was like ripping the heart out of the community," Mike remembers. It had been the one place in the isolated community where people gathered.

So Mike began talking with the school system about what would happen to the property. They eventually asked CAP to take it over and CAP turned it into a community center.

CAP moved all of its offices into the building, started an after-school program and created a community room with memorabilia from the school. A variety of groups meet in the room, including Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics

Anonymous. Community members rent the building to host baby showers, give benefit concerts and hold wedding receptions. Mike's job is to oversee the entire complex.

"We're trying to focus on the gaps we have with families," Mike says of what happens at the community center. The after school program, for example, is called Scholastic Preparation Arts and Recreation for Kids (SPARK). It serves children ages five to 12 with the elements evident in the title and an anti-drug program.

Although there are no CAP volunteers in McCreary County presently, that will soon change, which is pleasing to Mike. "I've always thought it was very wise of CAP to mesh the experience of long-time employees with the fresh ideas and renewed spirit of volunteers. It's a real good mix. Even as a former volunteer, I still need them to keep me sharp."

There are already aspects of working in McCreary County that Mike enjoys. "I like the opportunity and the independence. I love the people I'm working with. McCreary County is incredible," Mike says. "They've really tried to hang on to their simplicity in a good way. I don't think Jesus wanted us to lead a complicated life."

## Summer Camp needs volunteers

We need volunteers for CAP's summer camps for three to nine weeks in June and July. If you or someone you know would like to serve as a life-guard, camp counselor or medical personnel, please contact the Volunteer Program for more information at [volunteer@chrisapp.org](mailto:volunteer@chrisapp.org) or call 1-800-755-5322.

## Visit CAP's new website

The Christian Appalachian Project now has a new home on the web at [www.christianapp.org](http://www.christianapp.org). The new site includes more resources for former volunteers, including a list of upcoming events, an alumni survey, the CAP Connection online, resources for alumni and information about CAP's Regional Partners. Check out the page created specifically for former volunteers at <http://www.christianapp.org/volunteer/former.shtml>

You can also now read past issues of the CAP Connection online at <http://www.christianapp.org/volunteer/alumninewsletter.shtml>

## From across the mountains

**Robert Gotcher, '81 – '82, and Kathy (Hittner) Gotcher, '82 – '83,** have been married for 22 years and live in Franklin, Wis. Kathy home schools five of their seven children; the other two are in college. Robert earned his Ph.D. in theology at Marquette and now teaches Catholic seminarians at Sacred Heart School of Theology. Robert and Kathy are involved in the secular Franciscans, pro-life activism and the Schoenstatt Church movement.

### **Ann (Reed) Combs '93 – '94**

and her husband Mark are the proud parents of an adopted newborn. Ann says, "Daniel is a true blessing and loved already by his big brother Joshua." Ann stays at home with the boys. She and Mark have been married 10 years.



*Ann (Reed) Combs and family.*

**Susan (Sylvestre) Swart, '94-'95** and summers '95,'97 and '99, and her husband, Brian, live in Centennial, Co., although they go back to Rhode Island whenever possible. In October they welcomed their third child, Claire, who Susan says is adored by her brothers Andrew and Matthew. Susan would love to hear from her CAP friends at [susannbrian@msn.com](mailto:susannbrian@msn.com).



*Susan (Sylvestre) Swart and family.*

**Ann Sandhoff, '97-'99** and **Kevin Black '96-'98** were married

on July 1, 2006 in London, Ky. Kevin is currently working as a Housing crew leader for CAP and Ann is a Speech-Language Pathologist for Corbin Independent Schools.

**Joy Mosley, '06,** returned to Arizona where she's having a wonderful time with

her grandchildren. She also wrote that her volunteer experience at Rainbow Respite was a time of God's grace and faithfulness. "This was not about what I came to do, but about what God is doing in all who serve in response to his call," she wrote. "The spirit of community is what I will miss most. We were all called together at this time to witness his grace and presence in each other."



*Ann (Sandhoff) and Kevin Black's wedding included: Angela Carter ('98 - '00), Deb (Hasselbring) Gotfried ('98 - '99), Ben Gotfried, the bride and groom, Rachel (Sapp) Steingass ('97 - '99) and Jim Steingass ('98 - '99).*

County, Ky. for several years before moving to Sue's home state of Wisconsin where they raised their four children. Please keep Sue and her family in your prayers. We will always remember Kevin's quick wit and love for nature.

### Send us your news from across the mountains

Your former volunteer friends want to know what you're doing these days! Please send us any news 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](mailto:volunteer@chrisapp.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Years you volunteered: \_\_\_\_\_

Your news: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Condolences

CAP extends our deepest sympathy to the family of **Kevin Hennigan** who passed away in February. Kevin came as a volunteer in the late 1970's where he met **Sue (Daniels)** who was also serving as a volunteer. They married in 1980 and made their home in Garrard

## Welcome new alums

Kelsey Studwell  
Joy Mosley  
Gay and Bill Eyman  
Charles English  
Steven White  
Annie Fitzgerald  
Linda Lee  
Deborah Hall  
Charles Padgett  
John Lubanski  
Breanna Fain  
Don Hodges  
Graham McLaughlin  
Deena Haas

## Spiritual adoption supports volunteers

(Continued from cover)

Presently, 25 people have “adopted” a volunteer.

Brenda Thornton, who works in the Volunteer Program, began participating in the spiritual adoption program this year. “I just felt a calling to do something like that,” she says. “If I had a child away from home I would want them to be able to make contact with an older person.”

Brenda now corresponds with her adoptee via e-mail or postal mail and remembers him in her morning prayer time as she drives from home in Lancaster to Mt. Vernon. Recently, he pointed out to her how her prayers and encouragement have helped him spiritually.

Brenda encourages anyone who is thinking about adopting a volunteer to do so. “It’s not only gratifying for the volunteer, but also for you,” she says. “It’s uplifting to hear from the person you are praying for.”

If you would like to adopt a volunteer through the spiritual adoption program, please contact Kathleen Leavell at [kleavell@chrisapp.org](mailto:kleavell@chrisapp.org).

## Changes on the way in the Volunteer Program staff

Changes are on the way once again in the CAP Volunteer Program. In December, Laura Wick, ’02 - ’04, Volunteer Recruiter, left her position at CAP to pursue her interests in environmental justice

and to plan for her wedding in May. Kim Otto, ’96 - ’98, is also hearing wedding bells and recently announced her engagement and pending move to Virginia. Kathleen Leavell, a former volunteer (’76 -

’78) and long-time CAP employee, will be replacing Kim as Manager of Volunteer Recruitment and Admissions in April. Congratulations and good luck to Laura, Kim and Kathleen!

**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:

**Beth Dotson Brown**  
(CAP Volunteer ’90 - ’91)  
Contributing Editor

**Kathy Kluesener**  
(CAP Volunteer ’73 - ’80)  
Admissions Coordinator

**Kim Otto**  
(CAP Volunteer ’96 - ’98)  
Manager of  
Volunteer Recruitment

**CAP Volunteer Program**  
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Mt. Vernon, KY 40456  
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**Volunteer Program**  
4192 North Wilderness Road  
Mt. Vernon, KY 40456  
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