



Mountain Memos

Spring 2019

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Career Readiness Program



Course workbooks

The career readiness program has been up and running now for a few months, and the results are promising. The goal of our program is to teach

financial and working life skills that will help people who are looking for a job to get one. Right now, Erin Bottomlee, the Executive Director, is certified to teach the Faith and Finance class, and Jennifer Sparkman, the Social Service Director, is certified to teach the Work Life course. Out of each class, we pick at least one paid intern who seems extra promising. They get to work two days a week for six hours a day at minimum wage. This not only gives them a little income to be able to do regular job searching, but also allows the mission team to provide a reference for the intern. We have held classes at the mission, at Big Sandy Community and Technical College, and at the David School, and we hope to offer even more classes at places throughout the county, such as the local libraries.

Our first intern, Ryan Cole, successfully completed his



Work Life Class

internship under Mike, the Home Repair Manager, and he gained full-time employment near his home.



We now have three other interns employed with the home repair program (James Hall), gardening program

Ryan Cole

(Tracey Slone), and food bank/David Boutique (Skyla Slone).



Skyla Slone

Spring Gardening



Gardening season has begun at the mission! Lori, our Garden Manager, has already held her first meeting of the Grow Appalachia

Mission high tunnel

group at the extension office in Prestonsburg on February 4. She took in 29 applications that night to be a part of the program. Part of the requirement to participate in the program is to attend the monthly meetings that she holds the first Monday of every month at 6 pm. at the extension office. Previous topics for the meetings have included organic pest control and fertilization.

This month Lori selected an intern, Tracey Slone of



Tracey and Skyla sorting seeds

Martin, to help with her program. She wants her to help do the work behind the scenes and then also help with the

gardens as participants and communities start planting. So far Tracey and her daughter Skyla, also employed as an intern for the mission in the social services program, helped sort the seeds that came in as donations from Belleman’s Church in Mohrsville, PA, and that will be passed out to the community on a first-come, first serve basis.

Lori will be starting seeds soon and growing many varieties of plants in our high tunnel community



garden here at the mission. So far, Lori has 7 community

Lori and community member Buddy Hackworth

gardens that she and Tracey will be visiting this year, with the possibility of an 8th.

On April 17, 1-3 pm., Lori is hosting a free class for the public to explore how to freeze-dry garden produce, meals, and ice cream sandwiches using our new Harvest Right Freeze Dryers.

We'll also be trying our hand at bread and jam making with our new Zojirushi Home Bakery Supreme Bread Machines. They are able to bake bread, make jams & jellies, meat loaves, cakes, and sour dough breads. Both kids and adults are encouraged to come and try their hand

at bread machine baking, chopping veggies for the freeze dryers, and taste-testing breads and jams.



Freeze-drier

Home Repair Program

This year, Home Repair Manager, Mike, has already



Mike and intern James Hall

received over 30 application asking to participate in our home repair program this spring and summer. Once he and our Executive Director, Erin, process the applications, they will set up home visits. Mike and/or Erin

do home visits after which Mike writes up material lists for each project. Then, Mike and Erin assign the volunteer groups who will be visiting from March onward to specific projects based on experience and number of people helping.

This season, we expect to be able to help about 30-40 families with home repair projects. Every family is included throughout the process and helps prioritize their projects. Sometimes the families can do all the work themselves but just need help with materials. After a project has been completed, they start a monthly pay-back of about 25-50% of the material costs. Normally participants can make payments for as little as \$10 a month until that percentage is met.



This year, Mike will have at least one intern helping him with his projects. Ryan Cole, an attendee of our Faith and Finance Program and resident of Martin, had been working alongside Mike during the winter. They did

Ryan Cole helping at Christmas

some home improvement work together, such as helping a client who needed a well enclosed and her roof sealed. When not doing home repair projects, Mike guided Ryan in building and refinishing some furniture that will be for sale in our second-hand store, the David Boutique. Now, James Hall, a resident of David, is interning with Mike. They have started work hauling shingles and doing home visits.

Solar Panels

This fall/winter has been extremely successful at reaching another important goal before the end of the year—going solar. The mission used donations and grants



Volunteer House solar panels

totaling \$20,000 for making the volunteer house run off of solar energy.

The volunteer house has two large dormitory style bedrooms that can sleep up to 24 youth as well as smaller bedrooms for adults, eight bathrooms, two large common rooms and kitchen. The cost to power this building averages \$250 a month when groups are visiting.

By going solar, the mission will apply the savings generated from the 27-panel array to other programs such as the career, garden, food assistance, home repair, and emergency assistance programs.



Mike and donated solar panels

While Sr. Kathleen was on one of her Public Relations Trips to New Jersey, she was able to meet up with our donors Bob & Dolores, who had 15 solar panels with all



the equipment. We are looking to put them on the warehouse here at the mission. Bob had removed the solar panels from a gentlemen's house and he wasn't interested in having them re-

installed after he got his new roof. So, Bob thought of us. Praise the Lord. He also donated five bikes that are in tip top shape.

Not just a stock clerk

If you have ever visited St. Vincent Mission in the past almost 6 years, you have most likely met



Susan Greene. Officially Susan's title is stock clerk, but Susan's contributions to the mission go far beyond stocking food and clothes. A dedicated mother of three, Susan is in charge of the ordering and stocking of the

food pantry, along with most of the paperwork associated with the food program. She is in charge of organizing and stocking the warehouse and David Boutique as well. Any time we decide to have a promotional sale (bag sale,

yard sale, etc.) or run our Christmas Store, Susan is in charge. At any of the large community events, Susan plans the menus and cooks most of the food. She also pitches in with any other activities that need an extra hand in the home repair, gardening, career readiness, or emergency assistance programs.

Valentine's Day Lunch

This year we held a Valentine's Day pizza lunch with cupcakes on the 14th. Everyone in the community was



invited to attend through word of mouth and Facebook. Next year we plan to promote this dinner earlier to



include even more community members. It was a fun time to all get together and share the love!

We are currently in need of monetary donations for our food pantry, emergency assistance, H&A, home repair, career readiness, and garden program. Please help us continue the work that was started over 50 years ago when the Brothers of Charity began their work in Floyd County.

In Honor and in Memory

Donor

Paul Pelphrey
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Monica Brunner
Kristin Kurek

John Jansen & Carol
Steltenkamp

In Honor of:

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Mr. & Mrs. Ron Beck
Bobby Brunner
Bob & Dolores Kurek

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In Memory of:

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Mary Pineau

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Geraldine Chavez
Mary & Stephen Kazimir
Ed Todd
Loretta Smagala

Jerry McCann
Leo Miller
Ruth Sanders
Faith Naughton
Fr. Lou Lipps

Fr. John Weibel
Ann Wagner

Barry Protage
Joan Muchow
Br. Bill Riley FSC
Claire Bavaria
David Manning

All deceased members of the Weigand & Baumgartner Family