



The Ram's Horn

Volume 1, Issue

January 25, 2012

USDA Forest Service



Paige Verhonich, Chray Young, Christian Clark, and Dalton Stone after graduation.

Jacobs Creek's New Dormitory Dedication Ceremony



Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the project is the culmination of ten months of construction headed by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Christian Guardino is one of the dormitory's satisfied 68 residents. "Every single room has its own bathroom. There's a lot more privacy," he said.

The dorm also features an outer day room where all students may gather and socialize. Interior day rooms are reserved for students specifically assigned to "Godsey." The dorm is outfitted with student computers as well as vending machines. "The day room gets used," Guardino said. "There's checkers, chess, TVs. People can bring in their own play stations and guitars."

"The mere brick and mortar have been transformed by staff, students, and the community that have created this space we call the Bob R. Godsey dormitory," Hall said.

The dedication ceremony was followed by facility tours and a luncheon catered by Jacobs Creek culinary students and staff.

Bobby R. Godsey Memorial Dormitory

By Kimberlie Bastone

BRISTOL—For 68 students at Jacobs Creek Job Corps, their home away from home has been transformed into a bastion of privacy and comfort with the official opening of the new \$3.8 million Bobby R. Godsey dormitory this October.

The dorm was officially dedicated October 18 in an event open to the community and honors Bobby Ray Godsey, a devoted Job Corps servant from 1983 to 2009. He became the Works Program Officer in 1989.

Guest speaker Walter Hall, Student Services Coordinator for the International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps training program, noted that this "is a building that firmly stands for the power of its students.

With its well lit entrance, spacious sleeping quarters, and educational classrooms, Jacobs Creek has put its faith in learning and in its youth.

According to Assistant Works Program Officer Johnny Arnold who worked with Godsey for years, "He worked real diligently trying to get it [the new dorm] approved and built. He worked with the Department of Labor, contractors, and worked out all of the details."



Mike Nova-Safety Officer, Hakeem Wagner (right), Marcus Pressley (back), Jacobs Creek Color Guard members preparing for graduation ceremony held in July 2012.



Exterior view



Alice Cohen with Cherokee National Forest talks with students during Jacobs Creek 1st Annual Career Fair held in September 2012.

Heals Kick-Off Event: More Than Just A Resolution

By Kimberlie Bastone

While many of us are just beginning to make and break our New Year's resolutions, Jacobs Creek Job Corps students recommitted to living a healthy lifestyle back in September during the second annual Healthy Eating Active Lifestyle, or HEALS, kick-off event.

Two hundred twenty students and staff participated in the September 13th event which included health screenings, food tastings, alcohol / drug education, and an invigorating dose of Zumba.

According to Wellness Manager Debi Posadas, the HEALS program seeks to instill, "a better lifestyle including healthy eating, exercise, and overall education of

students to carry back home with them."

Posadas noted that up to 50 percent of incoming students will have some type of health issue. "Either they are too heavy, have high blood pressure, or they're on blood sugar medication or cholesterol medication.

During the September event, SYSCO foods set up sampling stations. Students tried light versions of many of their standing favorites - Cont. page 2

Heals Kick-Off Event: More Than Just A Resolution continued....

and gave favorable ratings to a lighter barbecue pork, a turkey burger, and lemonade made with Splenda.

Martin said that 80 percent of the products shown were implemented into the menus; however, "It is not a one time menu. It has to keep evolving. For instance, we're going to ground chicken instead of ground turkey. It tastes better and it's healthier."

One tactic for improving the nutrition of all students is to eliminate processed foods. Martin said, "We go back to the basics and cook from scratch instead of using pre-made, which is higher in salt and fat." Students have noticed more roasted vegetables in the offerings, along with almost no fried foods.

Not that healthier eating comes without sacrifice. Currently,

dessert is served on Fridays only. Martin has plans though. "We haven't yet tackled preparing homemade sugar free desserts, but we will start making desserts from scratch and limiting the sugar," he said.

"The program is working for its intent," Martin noted. "Some students have been very happy that they are losing weight. This [program] helps overweight students."

Posadas explained that one of the best aspects of the HEALS program is having the time to educate students about their health. During the kick-off, Jacobs Creek students were counseled screened for their weight, waistline, and body mass index.

"I think having that one-on-one to have vision, hearing, and blood pressure checked was key. Two senior nursing students



Floyd Coburn is working it out to Zumba!

from King College provided those services," said Posadas.

Currently, volunteers from the Sullivan County Health Department visit monthly to educate students, not only on oral care, but on such diverse topics as healthy lifestyles, tobacco prevention, and reproductive health.

"The message is, take care of yourself now because you'll get to an age where you can't backtrack. If you've done damage while you're young, you can't make up for it later,"



HEALS in support of the First Lady Michelle Obama "Let's Move" Initiative.

Job Corps Students Partner to Bring Santa to Homeless Children



France Peacock receives a manicure while Amy Jones looks on.

By Kimberlie Bastone

With the help of three Jacobs Creek Job Corps students and one local cosmetology school, Santa Claus located and gifted more than 150 local homeless children in Bristol, VA this Christmas.

Jacobs Creek students Amy Jones, Francis Peacock, and Ryan Owen put in a 12 hour day on November 29th sweeping and washing towels as the students at Exalt Academy of

Cosmetology offered free haircuts to the community. Donations, a silent auction, and raffle tickets for a large screen television netted the funds needed to provide Christmas for the area's needy.

Exalt Owner Rebecca Reynolds said, "What they [Job Corps students] do, and what they don't realize, is what impact they have. They sweep hair, keep the trash emptied, serve food, and keep an eye on the silent auction.

"If you're trying to service between 250 and 300 people, they [JC students] give our students time to use the restroom and to eat a snack," Reynolds explained. And with that extra time, the cosmetology student can serve more clients.

The Blountville native raved, "Job Corps students are very respectful. It's always, 'yes, yes, yes.' There's never any complaining." As a result, Exalt donated 253 haircuts and related beauty services to the community, but more importantly each child on Reynolds' list received a coat, shirt, pants, underclothes, shoes, and a toy. Still, these special kids will never know the identity of their patron.

To preserve the parents' roles, Reynolds bags the gifts in large trash bags and the parents receive them in the trunks of their cars, she noted. "It's just what I've always done," said Reynolds. "One year my mother asked us not to buy Christmas." Instead her mother asked them to do something charitable for someone else and bring her the receipts. "Later, my brothers and I decided not to buy Christmas for one another. Instead, we adopted a Head Start classroom." This year was particularly successful for Reynolds.

Through a variety of donations, she was also able to provide 117 food boxes for the families as well.

Reynolds has called on Job Corps students more than once. During the back to school season, she holds a similar event to provide school supplies for disadvantaged students. "I think we've used Job Corps students three times," she said.

As for Jones, Peacock, and Owens, they received a special Christmas gift as well—free hair cuts, manicures and pedicures.



Amy Jones, Charlisa Gates and Ryan Owens takes a break to pose for the camera.

*How wonderful is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world—
Anne Frank*

Community Relations Council Breakfast Fries up Scholarships for Jacobs Creek

By Lee Mc Neil and Kimberlie Bastone

When a person makes the life changing decision to join Job Corps, a lot of questions are raised in that individual's mind. Among them, the most commonly asked would be, "How many people will I have to room with?" "How quickly can I finish the program?" and "What time do I have to go to bed?"

However, one question I am sure you will be hard pressed to hear a newcomer ask is, "What kind of local support is offered on the community's behalf?"

Consider the mixed waves of nervousness, excitement, and uncertainty being in a new place surrounded by strangers. A new student deals with so many questions in the small window of time he or she has during their trek to the center via bus or airplane.



Center Director Walter West helps out during the benefit breakfast!

It seems understandable that the aforementioned question would be the last thing on their minds. Yet after months of academic study, the student still remains starkly unaware of the \$25 envelope he or she will receive at graduation and where it came from.

Headed by Mark Vance following former President Buddy King's passing in late September 2012, the organization has been synonymous with community relations for fifteen years.

The Community Relations Council provides students who receive their high school diploma or GED with a \$25 dollar gift. They are also responsible for the \$50 dollars students who remain on center during the holidays

receive to spend on gifts for themselves. They also receive free tickets to the Arby's Classic and Pizza Plus in December.

In King's last interview with a Jacobs Creek student, King described seeing young inmates being transported by the carload headed to court some fifteen years ago. King, who knew the judge, felt there was a more promising alternative to help the teens change their ways. "Jacobs Creek Job Corps could help get these kids back in line," King said.

With that, the group began going to various meetings to see what part they could play in helping youngsters get back on the right track. "We were really starting to get things done," stated King.

King, who himself had been the chairman for twelve years. Spoke of the CRC's early efforts to help reform local wayward youths as if it were yesterday. "We were giving students \$500 dollars toward college scholarships. We began holding these breakfasts in April and September of each year to raise money to give the students \$25 dollars for graduating.



Community Relations Council President Mark Vance.

Some people even donate \$150 to \$200 dollars. Scholarship is really what started the whole thing," he said.

When asked what makes the CRC work so hard to help local youth, King proudly stated the organization's unflinching vested interest in the program. "All kinds of people make it work. Everyone likes what they're doing. This is one of the best things that have come out of Sullivan County, said



Ken Martin (left), Debius Clay (middle) and Mark Skiera (right).

King."

It isn't as if Mr. King's claims about Job Corps' effect on the community are unfounded. King, along with longtime friends and fellow board members Bill Snodgrass and Sullivan County Construction Manager Claude Smith went on to list the extensive amount of construction done the city by Jacobs Creek trades.

Sidewalks built in Blountville, 600 feet of grading on the Creeper Trail, signs in Bluff City, a repaired Victory Trail swinging bridge and playground construction, as well as grading for the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department firing range are just a few of many projects completed by Job Corps students, Smith listed.

"There's no telling how many thousands of dollars Jacobs Creek has saved Sullivan County," stated King.

In the past, Snodgrass, Chief Aide to U.S. Congressman Phil Roe, has done his part to help keep the group afloat by holding and dinner quarterly luncheon which attracts doctors and lawyers. He also made it possible for Job Corps students to help build a playground in Unicoi-Erwin that had no funding.

"Anything that is worth anything is going to have problems...."

With that said, it is to be noted that living on a Job Corps campus is by no means an easy task. Mr. King had this to say to students struggling within the program: "Stay with it. Anything that is worth anything is going to have problems.

Be tougher than the problem. Sit down and talk your

problems out with your supervisor or teacher."

He also said, "Staff has to 110 percent love their jobs. No doubt in my mind that it is a hard job, but they have to love their students. You have some of the best staff over there. I cannot say enough of [Center Director] Mr. West and his staff. They do a remarkable job; that's why I love what I do.

I think our county needs to do all they can. All you students need is the will power to get a good education. It has to be staff and student will power."



Trish Vance, Marvin Hyatt, and Ken Martin getting the beverages ready!

Working as a team makes all the difference.....



Travis Pettis (back) and Stacy Stanley (right).

By Kimberlie Bastone

A Growing Web

What can one new mother do to knit together partnerships between Job Corps and the Bristol business community? In Casey Manning's world, quite a lot it turns out.

The mother of three, including four-week-old Caitlyn Renee, has managed to build Job Corps' word-of-mouth reputation within the community almost single-handedly.

Her guardian angel influence has translated into work-based learning opportunities for dozens of students over the past two years, including stints at Exalt Academy of Cosmetology, Eatz Café, and the former Sunnyside Up Café.

Manning, who along with her husband Patrick owned Sunnyside Up Café in downtown Bristol, first learned about Job Corps through a family friend and former Job Corps teacher. "Kathy Morgan invited us to one of the dinners. We immediately put the students to work," Manning said. Since then, she has spread the Job Corps message to others within her circle.

"Patrick really pushed the message even harder than I did," Manning credited her husband, a Bristol, VA police officer.

Job Corps students are highly recognizable in the community with their signature forest green polo shirts and khaki pants. "Because of their uniforms, we got a lot of questions," Manning noted, "so the word did spread." "It was such a remarkable experience. It really helped us with the café, and we enjoyed every aspect of it," Manning reminisced. "We really did tell everyone. I even tell people when I'm doing their hair."

Rebecca Reynolds, owner of Exalt Academy of Cosmetology said, "I learned about Job Corps when Casey came to school here."

"When you have someone who has worked with us and knows what our students can do, it's very helpful," explained Business



Mark Canty owner of Eatz Restaurant.

Community Liaison Lakeshia Gallaspy.

That's certainly how Mark Canty of Eatz Café heard about Jacobs Creek's work-based learning program. He said, "I went to a meeting down at the Sunnyside Café, and they were talking about giving them [Job Corps students] job training to expand on what they've learned at the Job Corps center."

Two students, Devin Culbreath and Stacey Stanley, just finished a work-based learning assignment with Canty in his southern-fusion kitchen. "I appreciate the effort of the kids who've come down here," Canty noted. Students were involved in preparing food and talking to customers. "They learned about cook time. I let them do some of the recipes here, and we showed them how to plate food."

Students have also worked for Canty during the city's Rhythm & Roots Celebration held each fall. "My best moments were especially during Rhythm & Roots when people who know me commented on how polite, clean, and courteous they were," he said.

Work-based learning is meant to give students a vision of their future career. "I included them

in every aspect of what we do," Canty explained. Sometimes it was slow; sometimes we were



Devin Culbreath and Stacy Stanley.

overwhelmed, but it was a challenge that they met very well.

According to Gallaspy, "The Image of Job Corps in the community can be very vague. A lot of people don't know about Job Corps. They assume it's a place where bad kids go. When I go to meetings, I explain, 'This is what we do. This is what we offer to students, as well as the community.'"

Building stronger partnerships with the community is definitely Gallaspy's goal. "My big wish is for us to be more involved in the community and for the community to use Job Corps."

Red Ribbon Week Focuses on Student Health Behaviors

By Kimberlie Bastone

Jacobs Creek Job Corps was awash in red during the last week in October as students and staff celebrated Red Ribbon Week, aimed at drug and alcohol prevention.

Red Ribbon week is the ideal week for communities to unite and take a visible stand against substance use and abuse. From the food in the dining hall to guest speakers and a poster contest, all of the activities were geared toward drawing attention to the importance of living a clean and sober lifestyle.

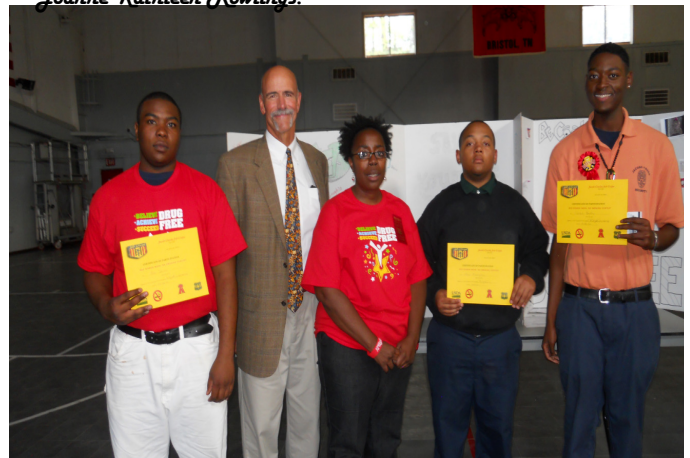
Mr. Jene Perrim from the Sullivan County District Attorney's Office spoke to students about the dangers of drug addiction and then helped to judge student posters.

In the poster contest, first place went to Dareus Bradley, second to Alex Johnson, and third to Kris Covington. Posters addressed the dangers of smoking.

Dining Hall Supervisor Kenneth Martin developed an all red menu for the week that included lots of red jello, spaghetti, and tomato soup. Even the new student luncheon featured a Mexican meal with red foods.



Understanding is the first step to acceptance and only with acceptance can there be recovery"
Joanne Kathleen Rowlings.



Alex Johnson, Jene Perrim, Paula Smith, Kris Covington, and Dareus Bradley Red Ribbon Week poster contest winners.

Jacobs Creek Students Builds a Retaining Wall for the Cherokee National Forest



Jacobs Creek Construction Craft Laborers students built a retaining wall pull over and a concrete vault in the pay area on the nearby Jacobs Creek Campground in located in the Cherokee National Forest.

(Pictured to the left and below)



Numbers that Matter for 2012....

- ◇ 26 -high school diplomas earned
- ◇ 115-GEDs earned
- ◇ Jacobs Creek was 45th in the nation from 7/1/2012– 11/30/2012(program year)
- ◇ And has donated over 5,000 labor hours to the local Community through various projects.

Calendar of Highlighted Events for 2012:

- 9-18-12 Jacobs Creek JCCCC Career Fair
- 10-24-12 Mentoring program at Longhorn Steakhouse
- 10-27-12 Make a Difference Day Observance
- 11-7-12 Brock Services onsite interviews were held
- 11-30-12 Jacobs Creek Got Talent Show

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.



The Jacobs Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center is associated with the Cherokee National Forest. The Jacobs Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation serves 220 students. The USDA Forest Service operates 28 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers across 18 states with a capacity of 6,200 students. For more information, visit: <http://recruiting.jobcorps.gov/en/home.aspx>.

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

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