

*Special Edition of the* ..... **COMMUNICATOR**

This is the COMMUNICATOR, a one-page newsletter of the Appalachian Life Quality Initiative (ALQI) created for the purpose of keeping the ALQI board and program employees informed of program activities. As others heard about the newsletter, our email list grew. We now send the COMMUNICATOR out to 900 of you by email—and a few by snail mail. This month, November 2009, is the 100<sup>th</sup> edition. Some of you have read every one of those. Thank you for your interest and faith in us. This month I want to change the format somewhat and recap those 100 issues. I have been asked numerous times “What does ALQI have to do with that?” In this issue maybe I can answer some of those questions. Find the program that interests you and read about how it got its start. So either settle in for some brief history reading – or put it aside until another time because it is 5 pages long. Also, if you know of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter anywhere in the world, I will be happy to add their name to my email list.

**SCOTT COUNTY DENTAL CLINIC—for children:**

ALQI began in 1999 with a \$255,000 grant to start a clinic for the 3,861 TennCare children in Scott County where no dentist was taking their insurance. On February 20, 2000 Dr. Livesay opened part-time in the orthodontia offices of Dr. Nyla Cross. Volunteer Mary Fields began dental education in the schools. On December 11, 2001 the clinic opened at 350 Court Street, Huntsville, thanks to the then Scott County Mayor Dwight Murphy and the Board of County Commissioners. Drs. Livesay (2000-02), Davis (interim), Daniels (1-6-03 to 12-2007), King (1-2008), and Baird (2008- present) have since attended to over 5,000 children over the last 10 years. Our statistics show 86% have TennCare or other insurance and 14% are cash paying. No child is turned away. Grants received over the years have come from B. R. Thompson Charitable Trust (later Elgin Foundation), UT Dental College, The Steele-Reese Foundation, and The Bingham Trust. Donations and support are numerous. They range from First Baptist Concord in Knoxville’s Crawford-Roland Sunday School Class to individuals making personal donations to help a child.



**CHILDREN’S CENTER OF THE CUMBERLANDS (CCC):**

On March 17, 2000 the ALQI Board of Directors, consisting of Steve Phillips, Mayfield Brown, Jerry Kline, Nyla Cross, Philip Kazee, Dwight Murphy, and Jan Laxton, met with District Attorney General Paul Phillips to discuss starting a Child Advocacy Center, later to be known as the Children’s Center of the Cumberland. Wheels were set in motion and on August 1, 2000 we received a 3 year grant for \$208,500 and also hired Tammy Foster as Executive Director. A meeting with Jim Barna on September 1, 2000 resulted in the donation of one of his model log homes to be used by the Center. He had one stipulation: He wanted the gray color gone! On September 1, 2000 a \$200,000 grant from the Bingham Trust was used to change the color and bring the facility up to code—including making it wheelchair accessible and provide furnishings and operating costs. If the Bingham Trust liked what they saw with this grant – then they had more funding for ALQI! On May 17, 2001 the Children’s Center had their formal opening. Ginny Douglas and Delores Kazee were early employees. It was Angel Sexton who painted all the child friendly scenes in the Center. It is a beautiful sight. The CCC employees have provided a weekly column to the Independent Herald since 2001. On January 1, 2002 the CCC declared they were officially on their own. And yes, the Bingham Trust liked what they saw. We received a total of \$1.5 million from them to be used in the CCC, Dental Clinic, Boys & Girls Club—and part to be used in the other B. R. Thompson Charitable Trust counties. Because of the nature of the Center, I cannot give you much in the way of stories or pictures, but they have continued to go into the schools, police department, businesses, and other places where they teach not only the children about what to do when abused—but what adults can do when they see or know about abuse. In 2009 they moved into new spacious quarters across the road from the original building and continue to come to the rescue of abused children in Scott County.



## **TELEMEDICINE:**

In May of 2000, ALQI worked with the University of Tennessee to set up a Telemedicine center in a facility beside the Mountain People's Clinic in Huntsville. Sherri Robbins, RN, headed up this project which saw 60 CHF and diabetic patients able to communicate with her through television sets installed in their homes. The Dental Clinic also had the Steve Jacobs Telemedicine Center where dentists in Knoxville could view the dental problems of the children in Scott County. Mountain Peoples Clinic was a Telemedicine provider too, working with ALQI Board member Jerry Kline. On September 1, 2000 a second grant of \$750,000 was received for 6 sites covering behavioral health. These sites would phase out at the end of the grant with the exception of one at the Scott County Hospital that connects with Ridgeview Psychiatric Hospital in Oak Ridge, TN.

## **SCHOOLS TOGETHER ALLOWING NO DRUGS (STAND):**

July 1, 2000 was the official start of the STAND program. It was September 2001 when Bea Huff, RN, and Jim Nuchols moved into the ALQI offices, then located on the second floor of the First Trust & Savings Bank on Main Street, Oneida, TN, taking over the space recently vacated by employees of the Children's Center. With School Directors Mayfield Brown and Mike Davis behind him, Judge Jamie Cotton went into the schools to address the students who would be juniors and seniors the next year. He had people from all over the county from all walks of life, plus student leaders sitting in chairs lined down the gym and facing the stands. He told the students they had all summer to "dry up" because when they came back in the fall if they wanted to participate in any extracurricular activity, they would be drug tested. If they played sports, was in the band, belonged to a club, parked on school ground, etc. they would be tested. He stressed that this was not a "Gotcha" program. If you tested positive, you would attend counseling after school and transportation home would be provided. At the end of your senior year—all files would be shredded. Judge Cotton received approval from the legislature to add a fee onto certain arrests in the county that would help fund this program. The footprints for this program have been sent to schools all over the nation. Judge Cotton presented it to a Juvenile Judge's Conference in Lake Tahoe soon after it was implemented here. Morgan County Schools started the program in their schools in 2002.

## **SALVATION ARMY – SCOTT COUNTY SERVICE UNIT:**

Ray Dalrymple came to town February 8, 2001 and told me if I would start a Salvation Army Service Unit in Scott County I could send 35 kids to Camp Paradise at Dale Hollow Lake--free of charge. On April 16, 2002 the organizational meeting of The Scott County Service Unit was held at the ALQI offices. Present were: Terrie Cross, Chm., Jimmie Foster, Tommy McBroom, Connie McKinley, Sharon Keeton, Charlie and Maye May, Bob Melhorn, Clara Terry, Susan Taylor, John Patterson, and Bea Huff. Notes: The Salvation Army "is" a worldwide church. We will send 20% of what we take in to headquarters where they will use it for disaster relief, etc. We in turn will receive regular checks from them as they receive donations through their mail appeal. (We have always gotten back more than we sent in!) The Camp at Dale Hollow costs \$165, however, a Service Unit can send a child for only \$20—but the first year even that fee was waived. For 8 years ALQI employees, lead by Jimmie Foster, sent underserved children from Scott County to Camp Paradise, riding on buses provided by Scott County or Oneida City Schools (they alternated years). Trust me when I say that this money was easy to raise. A few phone calls and emails and the job was completed. Sadly in 2009 a Chairman for the Camp Program could not be found making this the first year that our children did not attend. Finding a home for the Salvation Army has not been easy either. It still remains in the ALQI offices where vouchers are issued for past due utility bills or burnouts. 2009 members are Clara Terry, Chm., Mary Watson, Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy West, Bill and Barbara Skytta, Sharon Keeton, Bea Huff, Elaine Lowe, Mary Ellis, and Terrie Cross. Approximately 30 vouchers for past due utility bills are issued each month, (\$50-\$100 each). If a home burns, a voucher for \$500 is given to cover immediate necessities. The Elgin Foundation funds a \$5,000 annual grant to provide Christmas toys to children. How do we get the funds for the vouchers? We ring the bell! Bell Ringing Chairmen over the years have been Terrie Cross, Bea Huff, Debbie Reagan, Mary Watson, and Sharon Keeton. The first year--in 2002 we raised \$6,000. In 2008 that number was over \$15,000. These funds are divided by the 12 months and that is how we determine the amount of help we have for those in need in Scott County each month.



## **OTHER ELGIN FOUNDATION COUNTIES:**

On January 16, 2001 a delegation from Oneida traveled to Clay and Leslie Counties in KY for the purpose of exploring the possibility of starting organizations similar to ALQI. Making this initial trip was Steve Phillips, Philip Kazee, Mayfield Brown, Dwight Murphy, and Terrie Cross. On February 16, 2001 a delegation from Clay County came to Scott County to review our programs. On February 25, 2002 a check for \$60,000 was delivered to Leslie County, KY for their use in a school nurse program. Contact was made with Anderson County in July of 2002. On May 2, 2003 a check for \$60,000 was given to Captain Jim Binnix, Salvation Army to remodel a building for a Boys & Girls Club. No other action was taken by ALQI in the other counties as the Elgin Foundation hired Mayfield Brown for that role in 2003.

## **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU d/b/a Boys & Girls Club of Scott County:**

The first efforts to establish a Boys & Girls Club in Scott County began in 2001 when the ALQI board requested I meet with Lynn Duncan at the Boys & Girls Club in Knoxville, but it would be January 2006 before 21 K-1 students walked through the front door to become the first of hundreds of kids to attend the Club in the new \$3.8 million 40,000 sq ft facility--the third largest in the nation and the largest in a rural area. The facility is in 4 "pods": One area is for K-1 graders; a second is for 2-5 graders; a third for 6-12 graders; and the fourth is a regulation sized gym that seats 600. The Club began in 2002 under the leadership of Robert Wright with Clubs in two locations: Huntsville Elementary (Laura Lawson, Director) and Oneida Elementary (Shannon Wright, Director) and grew until membership reached over 800. It was then everyone knew a larger area was needed for the children and for the Club to fully function as it should. A Capital Campaign was started under the direction of the ALQI Board of Directors that eventually raised over \$2 million after which the Town of Oneida and the County Mayor and Board of Commissioners would issue bonds to cover the balance.



--It was in August of 2002 that 23.5 acres of land was bought by ALQI behind the Scott County Farmers Co-op for the purpose of building a B&G Club. It was in April 2003 that this property's ownership was transferred to the Town of Oneida so that bond funds could be used to start the new B&G Club building. Groundbreaking was held on this site June 11, 2003; however, another piece of prime real estate became available and this original property has never been utilized by the Boys & Girls Club. In February 2004 ALQI purchased 10.12 acres from the Carson family for \$335,000 located on the corner of Verdun and Highway #27. Funding for both sites, plus land preparation, etc. was from grants through The Elgin Foundation and Capital Campaign funds. We should note that The Elgin Foundation went on to fund the furnishings and equipment within the facility – but not the actual building itself.

--On October 18, 2002 the following were elected as Club Board members: Terry Roark, Dr. Tim West, Patsy Jeffers, Cyndi Thompson, Mayor Kenny Burchfield, Mayor Jack Lay, James Taylor, Don Stansberry, III, Charles Sexton, Gina Phillips, Mayfield Brown, Mike Leath, Dwight Murphy, Terrie Cross, Kevin Byrd, Mike Davis, J.J. Dower, and Mike Magill. Chairmen of the boards have been Terry Roark, Tim West, Mayfield Brown, Darlene Branim, George Taylor, and set to take the helm in 2010 is Debbie Faires. Directors of the Club have been: Melissa Perry, Robert Wright, Shannon Wright, George Johnson, and Rhonda Wright.

--Today 2 buses bring children from Oneida and Huntsville with attendance at the club ranging from 200-300 daily. In 2009 a new basketball league was started and 550 children signed up (50 of them cheerleaders). The Club is more than just a babysitting service. Students have traveled to Nashville with their "moving" Lego projects; cooked and served meals to members and guests; they learn how to wash and iron clothes; they have Power Hour where they can be tutored and get help with lessons; a community volunteer gives them free guitar lessons; and the list goes on and on. All this is made possible through grants and fundraisers such as the Hall of Fame banquet (since 2003), Jim Barna Memorial Golf Tournament (since 2003), Reverse Raffle (2007-8), Telethon Auction, and community support. The cost to attend is \$40 per week during school and \$65 per week in the summertime with price breaks for families with more than one child. The Board of Directors in 2009 are: George Taylor, Chm., Gina Phillips, Terrie Cross, Don Stansberry, III, Charles Sexton, Henry Baggett, Donnie Brewster, Kenny Burchfield, Scott Burke, Debbie Faires, Ralph L. Gibson, Rick Harper, Lori Jones, Rick Keeton, Jack E. Lay, Sandy Martin, Dwight Murphy, Charlie Richards, Renee Ryon, Sharon Wilson. These people are working hard to make this Boys & Girls Club succeed in a county with 19% unemployment in 2009.

### **THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY:**

Lori Jones knew this was a good program and she kept on until she found a way to get it funded. 715 children were enrolled during the first 3 weeks! Today, the Scott County Imagination Library is the ONLY one in the whole nation that has enrolled 100% of its children ages 0-5 years old. 1,500 books are mailed at a cost of \$13.50 per year per child. Lori has been recognized by the State of TN for her efforts and they have even copied her funding method – a sponsor for each month of the year, which is \$2,000 per month! Thanks go to Drs Katherine and John Martin and the Scott County Health Department for doing their part in making sure each eligible child is put on this list. What a thrill to receive your own book, to hold it, and have someone read it to you—and learn to read yourself.



### **CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE PLAN (CHAMP):**

This program was organized in February 2002 for the purpose of putting a nurse in the schools to perform health screenings. On 9-1-2003 the Health Department received a state grant and they have a nurse in the schools that perform health examinations. ALQI turned its attention to Dental Screening and in 2003, Rae Ellis, RN, began working with volunteer dentists in the schools. BMI statistics were also gathered. Misty Zachary and Tonya Coffey also worked with this program and today we have Kathy West, Coordinator, working with the School Health Coordinators. Now the schools do dental, hearing, vision, height, weight, blood pressure, and scoliosis screening each year. Once the screenings are completed, Kathy's work has just begun. She calls the parents of any child that scored #1 in the dental screenings (a #1 means abscess or may be in pain) to make sure they are aware of the situation and to see if they need assistance in getting the child to the dentist. In 2003-2004 there were 2,112 students screened and 68 were #1. In 2008-2009 there were 2,601 screened with 60 #1's. For the teachers to have this information about their students is quite valuable. They are able to see if a possible health problem could be a hindrance in their learning processes. Kathy also works with the Scott County Dental Clinic to find scholarships to assist those people who find themselves unable to fund needed dental care for their children.



### **REMOTE AREA MEDICAL CLINIC (RAM):**

ALQI serves as the contact for RAM and in October 2003 the first RAM Clinic was held in the Smokey Junction area of the county with volunteer Robin Kazee in charge. Most people here have never been to that remote area of Scott County. It was remote and Stan Brock loved it. They only had 367 patients that first year with a value of \$56,545. The Clinic has been held twice at the Scott County Airport and twice at Scott Appalachian Industries, and because of the recent national popularity; we are on a waiting list for future clinics.

### **MISSION OF HOPE:**

ALQI serves as the contact in Scott County for the Mission of Hope. I first wrote about them in April of 2003. They were bringing truck loads of blanket material and that was only the beginning. Over the years I have kept an active Wish List with them listing the needs of people that call our office--and they always come through. People laugh and say "If you need something, call Terrie!" Without the Mission of Hope they would not be saying that. MOH has made major purchases for programs such as the Boys & Girls Club, assisted the Women's Shelter, Homeless Shelter, and they regularly bring used furniture and clothing that is handed out to churches and organizations working directly with the people in need.

---Since 2005 they have brought as many as 70 middle school students to the county to do mission work. They reserve rooms at a local motel, purchase their food and any other products needed here and complete 3 or 4 major projects, visit nursing homes, etc. while here. Among other things they have painted the halls at Burchfield Elementary, remodeled Nicks Creek Baptist Church, painted the gym floor and outside buildings at Landmark Christian Church, and this past year worked at Operation Sharing Tennessee sorting products, boxing up food boxes and making deliveries. These students are a class act and we love to see them coming.

---On April 17, 2004 MOH hosted the first FREE Carnival at the Oneida City Park. They bring in inflatables; provide free food, music, and a good time for all. Attendance has increased each year.

---It is the backpacks at the beginning of school and the truck loads of toys at Christmas that really sets this organization apart from all the others. Every county school student knows who the Mission of Hope is. In addition to all the things that MOH does for Scott County, in November of 2009 I was handed the keys to a yellow box truck that they no longer needed. What a blessing! I have used my pickup truck for these last 10 years and now with this truck, we can do so much more.



### **WINFIELD SCHOOL ACADEMIC FUND:**

Winfield was getting a new elementary school and The Elgin Foundation wanted to help. They donated funds for a school library and an endowment that each year would give the teachers funds to step out of the box and do a project they have always wanted to do for their students but did not have the funds for. The teachers did amazing things those first few years—until the stock market decided to squeeze things a little. The funds are safe – but the returns only allow enough money for the school to select one major project/item to fund. One that they may all share. Sometime in the future we hope to return to individual program funds.

### **FREE SHOE FENCE MINISTRY:**

While traveling in New Zealand I saw a fence loaded with tennis shoes and I thought “That will work in Scott County!” Woods Shoe Shop owner, Ernest Woods, is a school classmate of mine and his shop is in an excellent place –plus he has a fence! On July 3, 2007 my granddaughter, Rachel, placed the first pair of shoes on the fence. In March 2009 I finally made a sign for the fence to make it more visible to the public. Since then Ernest’s church, Mission of Hope, and the public have put an estimated 400 pairs of shoes on the fence and porch of the shop. People stop at all hours of the day and night to see if they can find a pair to fit them.



### **OPERATION SHARING TENNESSEE (OST):**

ALQI had traveled to Corbin, KY for several years to pick up products for its programs and was extremely pleased when Dwayne King (CAP board member) asked if we would like to partner with Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) to start a distribution center. On October 15, 2008 the ribbon was cut at a warehouse in the Verdun area of Oneida and we operated there for 6 months with all volunteer help. In March 2009 the operation was moved to 200 Jellico Street in the previous H. T. Hackney warehouse where 3 part-time workers were hired. After one year as manager, and distributing \$8.6 million in products, I bowed out and Robert Smith became manager. Kathy West is Secretary and Charles Golden, Sr. is warehouse manager. The OST Oversight members are: Dwayne King, Chm., Jim Johnson, David Brewster, Terrie Cross, and Jeff Burchett of Operation Sharing in Corbin. You have to be a non-profit or 501 (c)(3) in order to be a member of OST. You cannot sell, trade or barter the products. We are very pleased to be able to serve the churches, schools, and other non-profits in the Appalachian Region with this great program that helps so many.

### **OTHER:**

ALQI works with the Morgan-Scott Project in issuing vouchers, much the same as the Salvation Army. They are a big part of the help for the underserved in these two counties. We have been able to provide a grant to the Scott County Women’s Shelter for a Counselor for one year; we have a coat ministry where we simply hang coats on the outside door handle of a store on Main Street so people many come by at any time to find a coat. We work with both Senior Citizens Centers to help them with their needs. And the list goes on.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:**

Words cannot express the thanks we have to The Elgin Foundation. Not only do they provide start-up funding for the programs of ALQI, but they fund our office so that we may put our energies into raising funds for our programs. We are very, very blessed. It has been a wonderful and fulfilling ten years and 100 issues of the COMMUNICATOR. I know I failed to recognize a lot of people and events, however, I hope you will join me as we move forward in helping underserved children and the programs in these Appalachian Mountains. Please call the ALQI office to volunteer or donate! (423-569-2677) We have a place and a project for you!