

Deep Roots, Inc. is an IRS 501c3 approved organization. Donations are deductible for Tax purposes. Our federal identification number (EIN) is 45-5115992. All donations are deductible for tax purposes and are promptly acknowledged with a receipt. Donations may be mailed to:

**Deep Roots, Inc. PO Box 113  
Earleville, MD 21919**

Donations may also be made by Credit Card through PayPal at our web site:  
[www.DeepRootsInc.org](http://www.DeepRootsInc.org)

### Deep Roots 2014 Board

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### How to Contact Us:

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**Online at: [www.DeepRootsInc.org](http://www.DeepRootsInc.org)**



Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm is registered with the United Way of both Delaware and Cecil County, Maryland.

**Delaware:** Donors wishing to designate their contributions to Deep Roots, Inc. through the United Way of Delaware should write-in Deep Roots Inc. with the **Code Number: 12904** on their United Way of Delaware Pledge Form in the "Specific Care" area.

**Maryland:** In Cecil County, Donors wishing to designate their contributions through the Cecil County, MD United Way should write in Deep Roots, Inc. as their designated agency.

### Current Needs

Deep Roots is a non-profit 501c3 mission, supported through spontaneous gifts of faith. All donations are tax deductible. We ask donors who want a tax receipt to prepare a list of items donated and their fair market value, and to please bring two copies of this list when bringing donations. **At this time we have special need of:**

- Canned food of all types
- Spaghetti & spaghetti sauce
- Brown rice
- Dry beans
- Canned beans
- Fruit juices
- Fresh vegetables & fruit, potatoes
- Laundry detergent
- Personal hygiene kits & supplies
- Hand soap
- Assortment of batteries: 9v, AA, AAA
- Blankets
- Single bed sheets
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels / tissues
- Cleaning supplies
- Brooms: regular & push type
- Bleach / Lysol / Cleanser / Window



- cleaners / All-purpose cleaners, etc.
- Children's Clothing: All sizes
- Trash bags (39 gallon)
- Disposable diapers, all sizes / Disposable diaper wipes
- Cat food (dry or canned) - as we always have cats who come to Clairvaux Farm one way or another to get looked after.
- Office supplies: any and all materials for general office use. Stamps!



#### Special Immediate Needs:

- Quality Flooring for the Family Residence Building to replace the carpet ruined by mold when the building was closed up last summer.
- A pick-up truck in good running condition



# DEEP ROOTS AT CLAIRVAUX FARM



Vol. 2, No. 3

September, 2014



PONY RIDES were a big hit for the children at our "Two Grandpa's Picnic" at Clairvaux Farm on Sunday, June 22. Over 200 persons attended with 100+ in the standing-room-only chapel service! The Summit UMC and Mt. Pisgah UAME Churches partnered with Deep Roots to host the event which also featured face painting, games for all ages and the mother of all picnics!

## Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm Update

by Carl Mazza

It was just a dream in 1983 when I and a few others first walked the waist-high weeded, biting fly infested property at 21 Veazey Cove Road in Earleville which was to become Clairvaux Farm. There were two aging barns and a small 19th Century farmhouse. There wasn't even a sewage system (the field in back of the farmhouse was pretty mushy) and the well was shallow.

Twelve of us sat on the sagging front porch of the farmhouse that first night, gazing at the overgrown fields and talking about the future. We imagined building, not a physical plant, but a community -- where hundreds of families with children who were experiencing homelessness might eventually come and find refuge and perhaps opportunity; the start of a renewed life. Clairvaux Farm was an imagination then. Now, over 30 years later, it is still a sacred

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You are cordially invited to our:

## "Fall Family Festival"

**Sunday, October 12  
starting at 1:00 p.m.**

• A 1k and 5k Family run / walk  
(for children & adults of all ages)  
around Clairvaux Farm w/ awards!



- Delicious food all day
- Live "Country" Music

**A Service of Dedication of our  
Renovated Family Residence  
will be held at 3:00 p.m.**

- All invited • Free of charge
- Rain or Shine

GPS: 21 Veazey Cove Rd., Earleville MD  
Directions at: [www.DeepRootsInc.org](http://www.DeepRootsInc.org)

## Food for Thought

by Tim Craig

There are many things to discuss and much to do these days. Whether we are gathered as a group at a Deep Roots event, with the community here at Clairvaux Farm or for meetings with our board or the team at the Farm, before we ponder the great work we must undertake, or take part in joyous communion with the children God has given us, we eat.

Food is at the center of our lives. We need it for nutrition and sustenance. We also eat for comfort and for the enjoyment of the fine flavors the earth and science provide us. Daily, we break bread with those who surround us; at home, in the work-

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## The Clothing and Household “Barn” is Now Open every Saturday at Clairvaux Farm

**T**he “Barn” is open every Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon for anyone in need of clothing (especially for children), linens, towels, household necessities like dishes and pots & pans, small appliances, children’s toys & books and more. There is never a charge for anything.

Volunteers sisters Audrey Kulick and Louise Stevens have been working hard to sort and display everything that has been donated in beautiful order! Photo at right is Brianna helping Louise [left] sort clothing for girls.



### Deep Roots Update . . .

*[Continued from page 1]*

field of dreams for those who come as well as those who have been part of it since its beginning. Yet 14 buildings have been constructed over the years – apartments for homeless families, a dining hall, an education building, donation barn, chapel, mission trip volunteer housing – and the imagined hundreds who were expected to come have now been many thousands. Last year, when Meeting Ground decided Clairvaux Farm no longer fit its new mission, it was closed. The community of Deep Roots, folks who themselves had been working with Meeting Ground for decades, got together and simply asked others to join together to renew Clairvaux Farm. Our timeline was impossibly short – indeed only a matter of months – but one door after another opened, until finally, on January 1, 2014 an overflow crowd gathered in the chapel to give thanks as Clairvaux Farm opened a new chapter of its life.

Now Deep Roots and Clairvaux Farm are growing together. Deep Roots itself is a gathering of folks, many of whom were themselves homeless as children, who want to mentor and guide children experiencing homelessness to a place of optimism, hope, and confidence. It continues its monthly program of fellowship, education, and community building with a core of 30+ young people. These activities are designed to inspire and equip kids whose lives have been turned upside down in the chaos of homelessness. Renovations at the Farm have been extensive, expensive, and challenging all year, but

steadily continuing, and Clairvaux Farm is now home to two homeless families with the expectation that we will be able to reach full capacity of 10 – 12 families before the coming winter. We plan to dedicate the renovated main Family Residence building on Sunday, October 12 at 3:00. Please plan to join us for this milestone celebration!

The “Donation Barn” has been open since June and fully stocked with clothing, especially children’s clothes, linens and household goods – all available free of charge to anyone in need from any part of Cecil County. Clairvaux Farm is now partnering with Cecilton-Earleville area churches’ “Faith in Action” organization to locate their community emergency food pantry at Clairvaux Farm, helping prevent homelessness among Cecil County families by allowing those on low incomes to make ends meet each month. In August, we began our tutoring program for children living at the Farm, hoping to expand it with additional volunteers as more families are in residence.

At Deep Roots we believe in personalism: that through right relationships we can impart to those experiencing homelessness much more than just a place to stay and food to eat. We can share the gift of personal empowerment and the spiritual strength we know resides in every child’s soul and personality. We have all been created for a purpose, a fantastic destiny, and to this end we will all have a home – we belong to each other, even as we belong to the One from which we came and who keeps us ever in the deepest and dearest of love. **Ω**

## Unexpected Presents

by Todd Flenniken

When Deep Roots settled on the purchase of Clairvaux Farm in mid-December of 2013 I was, to say the least, elated. When Meeting Ground closed the Farm the previous March it was the same feeling you get when a close family member dies. I had been working with the residents, staff and volunteers for about 10 years, so I had a bit of an emotional investment there. Sure enough, a core group of individuals who had faith made sure it wasn’t going to be closed for long. In mid-December the farm was purchased with the intention of helping children and their families have a better chance at a good life.

It was my good fortune that I was asked to be one of the first resident volunteers along with Tim Craig and his family, Abby Miller and her family, and John Harris, with Udo Sommerhoff as the Farm manager. I moved to the Farm as a permanent resident on December 22nd and we, along with our two families who are residing there now, have been building community ever since. Day by day, piece by piece we live, learn, love, and once in a while we do have a disagreement (after all, we ARE family) but it gets talked out and resolved, we learn from that and move on.

### Food for Thought . . .

*[Continued from page 1]*

place, at church, with friends and family. We look up from our plates and are blessed to see our neighbors who share this gift of life with us.

In planning for events and for meals that we share, we have taken into consideration the major issues of malnutrition and obesity that threaten the young lives entrusted to us. We aim to prepare meals that are more nutritious than what young people may typically choose to eat. Sometimes this means sitting down to share a succulent orange, chopping up vegetables real fine in chili or spaghetti, putting frozen squash in with the macaroni and cheese or making sure to buy snacks low in fat and with reduced or no sugar. When we do this, we can look up from our plates and look into the future of our young people with hope.

At the Farm, we frequently receive donations of food. When we receive sandwiches, salads and cake brought to us after a wedding or graduation, the spirit of that celebration is passed on to our community as we enjoy it together. The large donations of

I’ve always told people over the years that I receive far more than I give at the Farm and that is certainly not my intention, it’s just the way it happens. When I return home from the rat race of my “regular day job” it’s very refreshing to come home to the Farm, the children really re-energize my juices to the point where I’m out playing tag, kickball or whatever evening activity we can come up with. We all help in various ways, whether it be teaching a young child how to ride a two wheeler (which has been the personal highlight for me), or we’re helping that young child’s parents create a budget to give them that little extra help. And I haven’t even mentioned the outpouring of time given by various church youth groups whether it be just for a day or a week has been a blessing to all of us. Their time, energy and talents have been invaluable.

Deep Roots also has monthly events that have exposed me to a whole different group of wonderful children and talented adults that has also become an unexpected blessing in my life.

I knew when I moved to the Farm full time this was going to be the opportunity of a lifetime and the positives were going to far outweigh the negatives, I just didn’t realize I’d receive so many unexpected presents! **Ω**

canned and dry foods that churches and other organizations gather for us are prepared and distributed with the same love that we know was put into the giving.

There are groups who come to the Farm to cook or bring a prepared meal. They sit and break bread with us. These are blessed occasions where fellowship and real communion take place. Our young people experience fulfillment and gain confidence in these interactions; making new friends and witnessing their own value and goodness.

Earlier in the summer, we took our young people to an organic farm in the area. For many, this was the first time they had walked through a field of maturing vegetables. They learned about the process of growing food and they learned respect for the earth and its soil. As we receive the abundance of produce this season brings, our young folks are also on the vine, waiting to be harvested. Waiting for you. Waiting for us. Indeed, we all will ripen in our time, all on different stalks, growing and giving together under the One light we all share. We hope to share many occasions with you and to sit down together at the table where all are welcome. **Ω**

## Would you like a Very Special Christmas Gift that will also Help Homeless Families?



**C**lairvaux Farm has beautiful oak “traditional” rocking chairs available for a donation of \$200. They are in stock at the Farm and on display there also. They can be purchased and picked up at any time between now and Christmas. The supply is limited, so please call, email, or visit the Farm if you are interested! *All proceeds from the sale of the chairs go directly into our operating budget for the winter to provide housing as a part of our program to end family homelessness, especially focused on empowering children toward a bright future.* You will love this great old-fashioned rocking chair! **They make excellent gifts!**

The traditional solid oak rocker has 25.5" wide and 20" deep contoured seats allowing ease of getting up from a seated position. Exceptionally comfortable, the traditional solid oak rocker is made with custom rocker runners to make a smooth rocking motion. It is finished in professional grade oak stain and varnished.



## Deep Roots Fall Program Events

**D**eep Roots’ monthly events are designed for fellowship and fun for children and youth in the program. The kids get to play with and know each other, deepening their relationships with their peers and with the volunteers and mentors. It is an opportunity to grow “community” among all who are part of Deep Roots. These relationships, along with the personal growth and confidence they inspire, are indispensable in helping children and young people rise above the chaos and insecurity of homelessness.

We always need volunteers for all these events, to help assist in the event itself, to learn ways we can provide individual help and mentoring, and especially to drive the children who otherwise have no transportation so they can take part in the programs.

If you want to volunteer, even for one of these events, we would love to have you. Please contact Jenna Smith, Deep Roots Program Coordinator:

Email: [jenna.smith1981@yahoo.com](mailto:jenna.smith1981@yahoo.com)

**Sunday, September 14, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.**  
**Skating at Christiana Roller Rink**

**Sunday, October 12, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**  
**“Fall Family Festival” at Clairvaux Farm**

This event is organized to give everyone of all ages in the family an opportunity to participate in the fun and challenge of running (or walking) around

the perimeter of Clairvaux Farm, a distance of 1 kilometer. There will also be a more challenging 5 kilometer run for those who wish to participate. We will have live music, with seating, under the pavilion and lots of delicious food available all day.

There is no charge for this event, and all food and services are being donated. It begins at 1:00. A Service of Dedication to celebrate the opening of our renovated Family Residence Building will be held at 3:00. Everyone is invited!

**Saturday, October 18, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Annual Halloween Party for all ages**

Tracey McCaw will host, as last year, at her home at 255 Union Square Rd, Oxford, PA, 19363. There will be moon bounce, games and crafts, scarecrow stuffing, and lots of food and Halloween treats to eat there and take home.



**Saturday, December 13, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**“Old-Fashioned Family Christmas” celebrating Deep Roots 1st Christmas at Clairvaux Farm**

Games, tree decorating, special crafts (making Christmas gifts for parents, family, and friends, cookie baking, gifts for all the kids and for the family. Of course, a visit from Santa too!

**ROCK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** work group accomplished a huge amount of drywall finishing and painting on the new apartment for a live-in volunteer family. Deep Roots is committed to a strong involvement of volunteers, mission trips, and work camps to keep our budget lean but also to build a community together of folks who are both homeless and housed. The core of Deep Roots' program is to discover our common identity and deepen our personal faith by building right relationships.



**STILLWATERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, West Grove, PA, brought a huge delight to our entire community of Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm in their preparation of a delicious lunch for fifty of us that day! One of their members is a professional chef who led the meal preparation. Kudos to Angelo for bringing a bit of heaven to Clairvaux Farm! Sharing meals together in our dining hall is a vital aspect of the work of Deep Roots. Children and adults together learn and re-learn the spiritual power of hospitality and fellowship.

**THE PLAYGROUND at CLAIRVAUX FARM** was especially crowded on June 22, our "Two Grandpa's" Family Picnic day. The Farm plant is established to promote a "community life" as opposed to a "homeless shelter." The difference is in promoting right relationships and finding ourselves in knowing and caring for and with others as opposed to simply providing services. Families who come to Clairvaux Farm are enrolled in a program of learning and being part of such a community, with housing and meals provided as a part of the program. Even the youngest take full part.



**DEEP ROOTS JUNE FEILD TRIP to "STONE RUN ORGANIC FARM" in RISING SUN, MD**, where the children shared hands-on in the passion to grow food sustainably that is good for people and the planet! The children loved learning the importance of these things from a Certified Organic family farm native to Cecil County. Shown here actually helping to harvest peas (which the children got to take home with them), they were excited to learn about seed-planting and growth and to know they, as well, are an important part of the created world.