

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**

**Our Mission Statement:**

Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm works with children who are disconnected through homelessness or other similar marginalization: connecting hearts. We challenge children to envision a brighter future, to sustain healthy relationships and to navigate a course towards personal and social responsibility through better life experiences, with mentors, providing healthy life-models for all future relationships.

**How to Contact Us:**  
Mailing address:  
**Deep Roots, Inc., P.O. Box 113, Earleville, MD 21919**  
Email: [info@DeepRootsInc.org](mailto:info@DeepRootsInc.org) Phone: 410-441-6912

Mission Trips & Volunteer:  
Udo Sommerhoff, Clairvaux Farm Manager  
[udo@deeproootsinc.org](mailto:udo@deeproootsinc.org)  
410-441-4026

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



# DEEP ROOTS AT CLAIRVAUX FARM



Vol. 2, No. 4

November - December, 2014



*You are cordially invited to*  
**Community Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinner at Clairvaux Farm**  
**Serving at 1:00 p.m.**

**On Thanksgiving & Christmas Days**, (Nov. 27 & Dec. 25) Turkey dinner and all the trimmings will be served by the Deep Roots Community at Clairvaux Farm at **1:00 p.m.** to anyone in need of a place to share the day or anyone who wishes to come join us as a guest and/or volunteer.

• All invited • Free of charge  
**For information or to volunteer contact:**  
**Call: John Harris at 252-268-2188**  
**Email: [john.harris@deeproootsinc.org](mailto:john.harris@deeproootsinc.org)**

**For directions to Clairvaux Farm:**  
GPS: 21 Veazey Cove Rd., Earleville MD  
Directions at: [www.DeepRootsInc.org](http://www.DeepRootsInc.org)

by John K. Harris  
**Dear Community Partners:**  
The holiday season is upon us. Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm is an organization that provides a home and supportive environment to individuals who are experiencing homelessness. During this time of year, people who are less fortunate need our support more than ever. Our support allows them to keep their spirit alive and gives them hope that their fellowman genuinely cares.

We have a few events we are coordinating for the residents at Clairvaux Farm and the community at large. We are looking to provide Thanksgiving dinner Food Boxes for those who want to enjoy and celebrate the season at home. We are also looking to provide a meal, on both Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, at Clairvaux Farm for those that live here, anyone in need in the community who would like to come and celebrate with us, or anyone at all who just wants to share the day with us. The meal will be at 1:00 and open to all at no charge. If you plan to come and want more information please call or email us at the contact provided below.

You are welcome to volunteer to help cook or serve on either Thanksgiving or Christmas as well, again please contact us at the number below. Anything you can do to make the events a success would be appreciated. We have specific needs for: turkeys, vegetables, stuffing, canned goods, or anything that you could think of to make Thanksgiving dinner a success.

Also, with Christmas just around the corner, we would also appreciate anything you could do to help us provide a joyous Christmas-For-Kids this season, especially to

those who have the greatest need, the kids. We could use toys, clothing, and games for kids between 3-18 years of age and something for their parents. Gift cards are welcomed as well. As some of you may know, the wonderful program, Toys-For-Tots has an age limit of 12 so your help with teenage boys and girls is most needed. We are making this appeal to ensure all children and their families are helped.

**To volunteer on Thanksgiving or Christmas or to come and share the meal with us on those days, or if you have any questions, contact John Harris at [john.harris@deeproootsinc.org](mailto:john.harris@deeproootsinc.org) or call at 252-268-2188. We truly appreciate your efforts!**



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
Earleville, MD 21919  
PO Box 113  
**Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm**

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PERMIT NO. 5730



Planting winter cover crops of rye in our Community Garden. Lots of hard work and fun with science lessons mixed in!



**"Count Your Blessings Exchange"** open every Saturday morning from 9 - 12. There is never any charge.



# The Life-changing Power of A Simple Act of Kindness

by Asha Miller and Zoe Miller, ages 14 & 16

Poverty occurs all over the world. We both work as corresponding secretaries and live-in volunteers for Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm. We love to play and interact with the families at Clairvaux Farm because they mean so much to us as well as others in the community.

Over the summer we both got to travel to Europe as part of a youth faith-based program. While in Paris we were at a restaurant eating outside. We noticed a homeless man nearby in a winter coat with holes and torn pantsuit; he had a blanket tied around his waist. He was digging through a trash can looking for food to eat. We looked at each other, looked at the man, and back at each other. We knew that we just couldn't sit there and do nothing, because helping homeless people is what we do – it's in our blood.

We got up, went into the restaurant and bought several things. When we went back to where our friends were, the man was gone. Our friends pointed and said, "That way!" and off we ran.

As we ran down the block in Paris with a bag of food, we saw the man across the street looking at a fruit store. We approached him and handed him the bag. He looked at us with confusion and hope. We said to the man, "Pour vous [For you]." We showed him the contents of the bag and he looked like a child at Christmas. We both smiled, turned around and walked away.

Our friends praised us, but we just said, "It's what we do for families at Clairvaux Farm." They looked at us as though we were crazy and they didn't understand. For us that man was part of our family, because we live with homeless families. Homelessness does not just occur in Cecil County, but all over the world. Every day by living the best you can, and helping others as much as you can, you are helping people all over the world. A simple act you may do can inspire those around you and help to change the world.

## Special Thanks to our Late-Summer & Fall Church Youth Mission Trips!

- 1st Presbyterian, Stroudsburg PA
- Rock Presbyterian Church, Elkton MD
- Lititz Church of the Brethren, Lititz PA
- Immanuel United Church of Christ, Shillington PA
- Parsippany Presbyterian Church, Parsippany NJ
- Riverdale Presbyterian Church, University Park MD
- Southold Presbyterian Church, Southold NY
- Worcester Unitarian Universalist Church, Worcester MA



[above] Fall mission trip group from 1st Presbyterian Church, Southold NY and Riverdale Pres., University Park MD. [below] Deep Roots November field trip to Vince's Sports Center in Newark DE. The Summit UMC & Mt. Pisgah UAME (Middletown DE) churches sponsored the kids for the arcades, miniature golf, batting cages & Pizza!



## Living at Clairvaux Farm

by Damion, age 11

When me and my mom and brother moved to Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm I thought this place was not a place for homeless families. We were stuck in one room for a day doing absolutely nothing; me and my brother played basketball while my mom was doing laundry. And I thought to myself, "What is the purpose of this place? Why are we even here?"

Now that I know what Clairvaux Farm's purpose is I know why I'm here. (Well, actually, I've been knowing that all along.) The point is that even if you've been in this type of situation that doesn't mean it's the end of the world. Like me. I have fun with my mom, brothers, and the other families here and also with some of the live-in volunteers here. Clairvaux Farm helps me understand that being in a homeless situation does not mean that it is the end of the world but you can still have lots of fun.

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



Clairvaux Farm has beautiful oak traditional rocking chairs available for a donation of \$175. They are in stock and on display at Clairvaux Farm. 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! [Contact information is on page 4] 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, focused on empowering children toward a bright future. You will love this great old-fashioned rocking chair! They make excellent gifts!



## Renovations on Residence Buildings at Clairvaux Farm Nearing Completion



Bunk Beds set up and ready to go in the newly renovated Family Residence Building at Clairvaux Farm. Rooms were repaired, repainted, and new laminate flooring installed through the hard work of scores of volunteers. [right] Young people enjoy the basketball court on the side of the Family Residence.

### Current Needs

Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm 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 and canned beans
- **TURKEYS AND HAMS for holiday meals & baskets**
- 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 / kleenex 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.
- **CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS (Walmart or similar) for girls and boys ages 12 - 18.**

