

## Recollections of my Youth Group Mission Trip to Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm

by Simon Mraz, Southold Presbyterian Church (NY) Youth Fellowship

In a matter of minutes after arriving, I was talking to a resident's kid, Thomas the Third. Take note that I managed to avoid physical labor for the rest of the day (if you don't include playing with rowdy five year olds.) The rest of the day consisted of me being dragged by five to seven year olds, a hike, and a baby who excreted the most noxious gas on the face of the earth, but whose face was that of a one-month-old angel. While this exhausting day passed, I managed to notice that some of these parents were young, some as young as twenty!

The next day, after dinner (hot dogs and hamburgers), there was a two year old boy named Dainton's birthday party (the whole community was invited). He still had the little chubbiest face ever and naturally managed to get cake everywhere. I had been invited to go play games with a family next door at the same time. I sprinted over to that kid's room, and had tons of fun. They were really curious and I felt so helpful answering their Star Wars questions.

Monday morning was a downcast day. I wanted to stay for another week. Somehow, none of the kids were awake when we left, so I missed saying goodbye to them so I hope to send a letter. Yes, written by hand and with all twenty of the kid's names on it. That place was such an enlightening experience and it was a little vacation: the best of both worlds, Earth and Heaven.



Deep Roots' January Bowling Event

### How to Contact Us:

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Email: [info@DeepRootsInc.org](mailto:info@DeepRootsInc.org) Phone: 410-275-2194



### www.DeepRootsInc.org

Deep Roots, Inc. is an IRS 501c3 approved organization. Donations are deductible for Tax purposes. Our federal identification number (EIN) is 45-5115992. Donations may also be made by Credit Card through PayPal at our web site.



# Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm

Vol. 4, No. 1

Spring, 2016

Tour  
de Canal  
9/24/16



an annual family bicycling event and benefit  
DEEP ROOTS INC. • THE PARIS FOUNDATION • GENERATION STATION  
CHESAPEAKE CITY ECUMENICAL ASSOC.  
C&D CANAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL • CHESAPEAKE CITY

## The Heart of Deep Roots



by Ed Oceanic, Board President

I was sitting in the L.I.F.E building doing some paperwork late in the afternoon and all of the children had left except for a beautiful 4-year-old child with sparkling eyes, she carefully used the toys which were of fruits and vegetables and a knife, plastic of course, to cut up of some vegetables for me and served me several plates of food with a big smile, never interrupting me. I thanked her profusely for the generous gift of a meal, and she brought me several other courses. Perhaps she could sense I was hungry.

As afternoon became evening and one meeting gave way to another, I heard the dinner bell ring but had no time to stop and eat, and my stomach was rumbling. About 45 minutes later, 3 beautiful young children, the 4-year-old, and 8-year-old and a 10-year-old knocked on the door and presented me with a plate of real food, pork chops, mashed potatoes and green beans. I thanked them all for their thoughtfulness and off they went to play. I was thankful for the food, but I did not realize the real impact of their gift until two days later.

They were all thinking about someone else and what their needs were, without being asked. All of those little girls are, or were, residents of Clairvaux Farm. They learned to return the gifts they had received; this brings tears of joy to my heart. They had leaned John 3:17-18 and Mathew 25:35 not by reading, but by witnessing the volunteers and staff giving life to the word. It is this giving of L.I.F.E (Learning Involves Formative Experiences) that

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## Our Current Needs

Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm is a non-profit 501c3 mission. 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:

### TOILET PAPER PAPER TOWELS / NAPKINS / TISSUES

- Canned food of all types
- Dry and canned beans
- Fruit juices
- Fresh vegetables & fruit
- Laundry detergent
- Blankets & single bed sheets
- Brooms: regular & push type
- Bleach / Lysol / Cleanser / All-purpose cleaners
- Children's Clothing: All sizes
- Instant tea & lemonade mix
- Coffee
- Mayonnaise
- Ketchup
- Flour
- Cornstarch



- Salt & Pepper
- Baby Formula
- Tomato Soup
- Pop Tarts/Toaster Pastries
- Brown Sugar
- barbecue Sauce
- Seasonings / spices
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Sponges
- Trash bags (39 gallon)
- Twin Sheets
- Dishes, Cups, Plates, Bowls, Flatware for the dining hall
- Disposable diapers, all sizes / wipes
- Cat food (dry or canned) - as we always have cats who come to Clairvaux Farm one way or another to get looked after



## Save the Date!

Join us for Tour de Canal  
24 September 2016

Bring your bikes and join the fun in a ride and rally to support organizations that are working to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The event begins at the Trailhead of the Ben Cardin C&D Recreational Trail in North Chesapeake City and continues on to the Mike Castle Trail in Delaware. Participants can choose to complete the 20 mile round trip from Chesapeake City to Saint Georges Trailhead in Delaware or the 13 mile round trip to Summit Bridge in Delaware.

Registration begins at 8AM and start times are from 9AM to 1PM. The event will end at 3PM. This is not a race. Everyone is welcome and the event is open to all ages. The Entry Fee will be \$35. All pre-registered participants are guaranteed a t-shirt. All proceeds will go to the partner organizations: Deep Roots, Chesapeake City Ecumenical Association, Generation Station, The Paris Foundation.

More details soon on our website, Facebook page & Twitter feed. For info: Lori Goldsmith, 410-275-2194

Follow & Friend  
Deep Roots  
at Clairvaux  
Farm





**A HUGE THANK YOU TO Daisy Troop 914 of Middletown / Townsend** for sharing an evening with our kids. They brought crafts, food and storytelling, and a good time was had by all! Please come and visit us again soon! We welcome all such community groups and service organizations to come to Clairvaux Farm and volunteer. For information or to schedule, please call Lori Goldsmith, Administrator at: 410-275-2194

## The Heart of Deep Roots . . .

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produces children who care, are generous, and are open to possibilities that their parents were not afforded.

We strive every day to provide to the children in our program these important experiences. Currently 22 children call Clairvaux their home but there are another 45 children in our program. We are expanding to provide those L.I.F.E. experiences to children in their local communities. In our community we get help from Cecilton Elementary School, where teachers and principals run a program for the children and their parents. AP students from Bohemia Manor High School come in and help our kids with homework, and there are many other volunteers who help these young hearts grow strong. We have children in surrounding communities that need this same strong steady positive influence, those L.I.F.E. lessons.

Those 45, as well as the 22, need our help and yours. Together we can move these children, who have an eighty percent chance of becoming homeless adults, to adults who can give back to their communities. Just like those three young children were serving me, I am asking you to join us in serving these children. Everyone has a different and unique gift to add. Being in service to these children has provided me rewards and joy beyond measure. I am sure they will provide you with rewards in your own that are priceless. Please join us in this mission of love. **Ω**

# We Need Your Help!

## Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

### Special Note for Seniors

Deep Roots is now a station for the **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** Details are on our website: [www.DeepRootsInc.org](http://www.DeepRootsInc.org) This is for persons 55+ and pays mileage.

### Urgent Need for the Young People

We have a big event coming up on **June 12th** at Blue Rocks Stadium. We urgently need a bus to transport the children and their families. We are looking for the use of a bus & driver for that day to transport the families from Clairvaux Farm and others in the Deep Roots Program. If you know of any leads for us, please contact Jenna Smith or Lori Goldsmith at: [info@deeprootsinc.org](mailto:info@deeprootsinc.org) / 410-275-2194.

### Join Deep Roots when we Serve Meals

#### Elkton Community Kitchen

April 1, June, 24, July 15, October 1

#### The Paris Foundation

May 23, July 25, Aug 31, October 24th

Please call Lori Goldsmith if you are available [info@deeprootsinc.org](mailto:info@deeprootsinc.org) / 410-275-2194

### Spring / Summer / Fall Mission Trips & Work Groups

*We have space for your group for a day,  
a weekend, a week, or more!*

There are still available dates on the calendar for 2016.

For information or to schedule:

Contact Lori Goldsmith, Administrator [info@deeprootsinc.org](mailto:info@deeprootsinc.org) / 410-275-2194

*Please Join Us & Bring the Family*

**Our 3rd Annual**

**2 Grandpas' Picnic**

**at Clairvaux Farm**

**Saturday, July 30**

**Chapel Service at 10 a.m. Picnic starts at Noon**

Games for children & Adults

No reservation needed, no charge, Just Come!

Hosted by Grandpas Rev. Dave Buchanan & Summit UMC  
Rev. Elwood Fews & Mt. Pisgah U.A.M.E. Church



# WHAT DEEP ROOTS MEANS TO MY FAMILY

## Dear Deep Roots:

We have enjoyed our stay at Clairvaux Farm. I have made many improvements in the way I live my life as a result of my time at the farm. I have learned to put my child's needs ahead of my own. But, at the same time I have learned my life is important as well.

We have also put our faith in God at the center of our lives as the most important focus. I thank Him every morning for giving us another day of life to make strides towards self-sufficiency. Since being at Clairvaux, I have met several of my life's goals through the grace of God. These include – taking classes to obtain my GED at Cecil College's Family Education Center. I also have made strides to further my daughter's education by having her enrolled in the pre-school program at Gilpin Manor Elementary. Additionally, I have used my time at the Farm to obtain all the available benefits and resources available to us to advance our position.

Being at the farm has given me the strength and determination to pursue my dreams and goals of being a part of the process that gives back in life. For example, I came into the Farm as a resident, and eventually worked hard to gain the respect and trust of the staff which led to a position of a live-in volunteer. I feel honored and blessed to have been given this opportunity.

So, in not so many words, my stay here has been very beneficial to my daughter and I. My daughter, Paige, through living at the farm, has received the most precious gift she could have ever been given. She, while living at the Farm, was able to run, play, and be herself which was something she was not able to do prior to our coming to the Farm. I can never thank Clairvaux Farm enough for all the wonderful gifts we have received since we have been living here. The Farm is God's creation, and the staff and all the supporters are his angels. Our stay here was a hopeful and joyful experience. The staff, being the angels that they are, showed me how to have respect for others and myself. They were caring, loving, and never judgmental.

Many thanks to Carl, Ed, Lori, Tim, Todd and John for making a huge difference in our life. God bless you all and may you continue to make a difference, because God knows you have made a difference in our life.

Yours Truly, *Florence and Paige Crain*

## My Moments at Deep Roots

On coming to Clairvaux Farm, I really didn't know what to expect because I was still working by myself with no help. I knew what I wanted for myself and my boys, but my mind was cloudy. As time went on and I grew into the program, I became more aware of what I wanted, and with help this time, Deep Roots has given me the courage to be and do whatever it was to get me to move forward. I have become a cook, a speaker, an active mother, and an outspo-

ken person to move forward in my life.

I am very grateful and truly blessed to have gotten into Deep Roots, and to meet all the other families and groups -- to help support one another, to a better live, and to move forward. So, thank you all for your support and belief in me. I truly received what I needed at this program, my life back. Thank you Deep Roots.

*Sharonda, Ayrion and A'ryion*

## Hello:

My name is Sonya, I became a resident of Deep Roots back in July of 2015 along with my 3 sons age 16,14 and 12. It was a very difficult time for myself and my kids since I have never been in this type of situation, but upon arrival at "The Farm" I was warmly greeted by another resident and ultimately became very good friends with him and his family.

My family's stay was short but will be heart-felt for a long time. John Harris, who did my intake, also made my stay as comfortable as possible, as he was my contact person. My kids loved their school and playing on the basketball court. They made friends with other residents and at school. Deep Roots had many events on and off "The Farm" for the children. We especially liked the tutor that came to help the kids with homework and just to hang out and play or chat. I also was able to obtain a certificate in food safety.

Deep Roots helped me and my family in many ways when I was a resident, and even since I have moved into my own home. And for that I can't say "Thank You" enough. I'm currently working a part time and a full time job. And as mentioned previously, I'm in my own home with all 3 of my boys. Deep Roots was much more than a stepping stone. They indeed planted a Deep Root in my and my kid's lives, and we're much grateful to have been a part of the Family. Thank You All. *Sonya*



**The Olivet United Methodist Church Youth Group, Galena, MD** spent a Sunday afternoon with the kids at Clairvaux Farm. The kids all say, "Please, come again!"