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Newsletter

Fall, 2016



Our Mission: To end homelessness, one child at a time

Leaving Clairvaux Farm

by Tim Craig

Another hot summer is upon us. Despite the oppressive heat, summer is my favorite time of year. I don't mind toiling and sweating. People just look better to me outdoors, dressing and moving with a different kind of freedom. We come to the water, aware of the life it offers and we stay outside later at night, taking notice of the vast embroidered sky.

Change often takes place during the summer. I usually put into place some new exercise plan (that fades by winter) and I spend more time with family and friends. The needs at the Farm and of Deep Roots, in general, change. There is

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Chesapeake Bay Trust Award

The Chesapeake Bay Trust awarded Deep Roots nearly \$20,000 in support of its afterschool program and monthly events for one year. Our



theme is 'A Sense of Place'. This project will take advantage of our location on the Eastern Shore and incorporate environmental education throughout the year. We have exciting field trips planned to Turner's Creek, Adkins Arboretum, Conowingo Dam, Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center. Please check the calendar on our website:

<http://deeprootsinc.org/monthly-events-for-children-youth/>

In addition, we look forward to bringing to Clairvaux Farm experts in the areas of gardening and food preparation (from University of Maryland Extension), river keeping (Sassafras and Bohemia River Associations), birding, beekeeping, arborists and geology. We always need and deeply appreciate assistance with transportation, brown bag lunch preparation and supper preparation on fieldtrip days.



The kids had a fantastic time at the 3rd annual Two Grandpa's Picnic at Clairvaux Farm on August 6. Photo is of the giant "bouncy house." The event is hosted by Summit United Methodist and Mt. Pisgah UAME Churches in Middletown, Delaware.

Amy's Story

My name is Amy and my son is MQaiyim [ky-vim]. We have been a resident at Deep Roots since July 1, 2016. Before we came here our life was a mess. I was struggling with getting custody of my son. I was not sure what would happen day to day. When we got here we were given the most respect by residents and staff. When given the tour and seeing our room, I wanted to cry. My son opened up for the first time ever and loved it here. We have met so many amazing people. The staff has been awesome, they have helped me find myself and have faith in God again. Since being here I have achieved so many goals. I have full custody of my son. I have been placed on

[Continued with more Deep Roots stories on page 2...]

Amy's Story & Others...

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at least six housing waiting lists. I have been doing good when it comes to my therapy. When I leave here I hope my son and I move into our very own apartment. Living here has been an amazing experience and it's a wonderful program. It's very helpful. I love it here. And I also want to mention that these kids here are so much fun. We play all kinds of games and spending time with them helps me keep calm and continue to wake up happy knowing that we are gonna have fun that day. I love this place. And I love everyone here. I want to thank everyone for the support and love they have given and shown to myself and my son. Ω

Florence's Story

My life before Clairvaux Farm was a struggle moving from place to place unsure of what each day would hold for me and my daughter. It was a true challenge. The moment I stepped on to [the] farm I knew the Lord had brought me to a special place. I felt safe and the staff embraced me with open arms and without judgement. I was able to focus on my daughter, get her the medical attention she needed. At the time the Farm was underneath Meeting Ground three months after I got here they closed their doors. I then placed at another shelter. My stay there was wonderful and allowed me to gain life skills but then I believed I could do it on my own. So I moved on, got my own place and realized I could not do it on my own.

Once again life became a struggle. Thank the Lord Deep Roots had reopened the Farm. I made a call and was allowed to return to Clairvaux Farm. Once again they accepted me and [my] daughter with open arms and without judgement. This time I just knew I was meant to be here. I was meant to be here. So I came [and] got my life together. They supported me and guided me and gave me the tools to regain con-

trol of my life. Not long after returning to the Farm, I gained trust and responsibility and became a full time live in volunteer. From this experience, I obtained a lot of skills and shortly after I became a volunteer, the Lord blessed me and I got my Section 8 and I moved off the Farm and obtained a home for me and my daughter. I attend GED classes two days a week. But since leaving [the Farm], I felt like there was something missing and God knew my heart and so I prayed on it and not long after, Mr Harris called me and asked me to return to the Farm as an employee. My prayers were answered.

I am now working at the Farm and loving every minute of it. I get to work with the families and work with Mr Harris to maintain the grounds. I have gained many life skills and personal gain the families here enrich my life and give me meaning and purpose. I love what I do and believe I am meant to do this. I hope I am a part of Deep Roots and Clairvaux Farm for a long time. Many thanks to John, Lori, Ed and Carl for bringing me back and allowing me this opportunity. Ω

Ashley's Story

I am 28 years old. My son's name is Jason and his is 5 months old. Jason and I moved back to Delaware when Jason was only 2 months old. I came to Delaware with faith in my heart that I could find a stable place for my son to grow and learn. So we went to live with a friend. This was not the best place for my son and we were both being treated wrongly. So I picked us up and went another 'friend's' house. The environment was not a good place to be for Jason so again we moved. This went on six more times. Until I was so depressed I was about to just give up on life. We if you believe in angels as I do, I begged my mother and my brother for help so I wouldn't lose my only reason for life: my son. My friend Brandy who only lived in a one bedroom with her

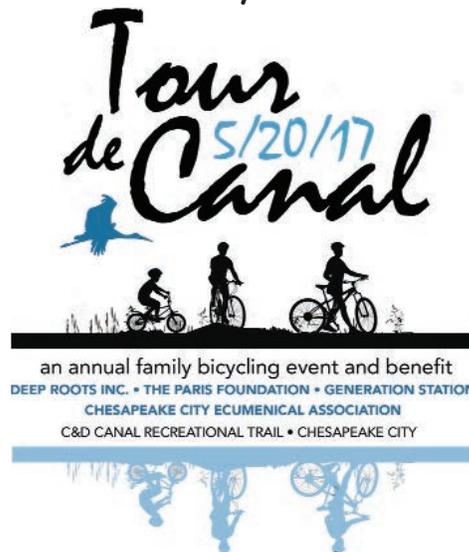
Tour de Canal Postponed

(Due to trail not yet completed)

New Date:

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Please mark your calendar



two sons told me to pack Jason and myself up and come live with her. I lost my mom five years ago and while I was pregnant I lost my closest sibling, my brother Jason. So I was sitting there one day asking God to please show me the sunshine. I was tired of seeing dark skies.

Well just as I was praying my friend Brandy told me about Clairvaux Farm and how it was a magical place. I was nervous when I was brought all the way out here with me being from the city. John showed me to my room and told me that this was just my and my son's. I instantly started to cry happy tears for the first time in a long time. I moved in that Friday, July 29th and when I got here all the mothers and children welcomed us with open arms. My son has a smile on his face all the time and they all love him so much. I see in his eyes he knows he is safe. The women here help me with him when I don't know what I'm doing and there's no question about it. They also understand my situation which helps me so much and they do not judge me for I am only human and a first time mom. We are both truly blessed. Ω

Leaving Clairvaux Farm

[Continued from page 1]

more work to be done outdoors and it is a good time to be truly active as a community. Children are bursting with energy after being cooped up day after day through the school year. There are nature excursions, opportunities for swimming, bike riding, hiking and other things young people tend to enjoy. They are revved up and ready to go.

In June, I became revved up. I knew not to what end as the feeling came over me, but after sharing the feeling with my wife, it became clear that this particular energy was something we shared. We both felt our family was ready for something and somewhere new. In July, we packed up and moved on. We moved to Clairvaux Farm in the spring of 2009. Our daughter, Valeria, was just a year old. She grew up in the best environment a child could ask for in her most formative years. She met so many people from such diverse places and backgrounds. She always had someone to play with. She felt loved on a large scale and she witnessed and extended compassion. I have to say, I am most grateful for this. I know she will never forget Deep Roots or the Farm.

We are all changed people, though. We made a commitment that was essentially another marriage. Our commitment was to love and serve. As with marriage, we didn't (at least I didn't) always do it perfectly. Sometimes I hesitated to touch a life that I could have. Sometimes I made wrong decisions and sometimes I opened my mouth and let garbage come out. But I experienced much forgiveness and I learned that truly loving means to accept the imperfection of others as well.

We have made so many friends; several who came from across the seas. I pray that our friendships have been as meaningful to those we have met and loved as their friendships have been to us. Fortunately, we have not gone far and we have only moved away physically. We intend to remain a part of the Deep Roots community and to continue advocating for people we care about, many living on the margins of our society. I don't know that a lot of families find this work central to their lives together. It is innate in the family structure we inhabit, where people offer relatives space in their houses and share the responsibilities of childcare and food preparation. We are fortunate that way and our transition has been as seamless as we could ask for it to be.

In the year 1115, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux founded a monastery where he welcomed many to share in prayer, reflection, community and action. While he was a man of faith, he was also a diplomat. He saw divisions in the world that were tearing people apart and he could not be silent. Friends and family joined Bernard and found a home at Clairvaux. You needn't click or turn the dial very far to see how deeply divided the world is today. Clairvaux Farm is a place where the possibility of people mattering looms large. Deep Roots community is a union of people gathered to unify with love.

Shout OUT Deep Roots extends a special shout-out to Christina Lippincott who worked very hard with our staff to create a new logo for Deep Roots that has been rolled out on our letterhead, newsletter, social media and other places. We highly recommend Christina to our friends who may be looking for a designer who produces excellent work and exhibits genuine collegiality in fine-tuning ideas. Additional examples of her work are available at her website:

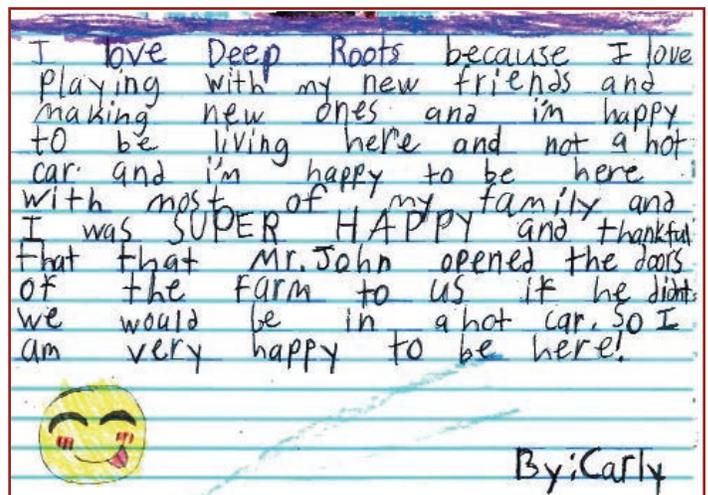
<https://lippincottdesigns.com>



Our New Afterschool Program at Clairvaux

Our inaugural Afterschool Program at Clairvaux Farm begins in September and will run until June. If you would like to volunteer to help with arts and crafts, tutoring, story time, or have other ideas and lots of energy and patience to work with our kids, please contact Jessica Stone. We have toddlers, pre-school, elementary, middle and secondary age children in residence at any given time.

If you would like to join us or support these program contact Jessica Stone, Children's Program Coordinator:
302-588-2350 Jessica@deerootsinc.org



There are divisions of course, but there are miracles galore.

My family is grateful for the miracle of Deep Roots at Clairvaux. We are believers. We know there is something unique and special that happens when people are intentional about living together and sharing gifts. As we transition to living in town, we do so with a trail of memories that will always lead us back to Clairvaux. Many thanks to all of you who have shared your lives and your journeys with us over the years. What a blessing! Ω

How to Contact Us:

Deep Roots, Inc., P.O. Box 113, Earleville, MD 21919
 Email: info@DeepRootsInc.org Phone: 410-275-2194

www.DeepRootsInc.org



Deep Roots, Inc. is an IRS 501c3 approved organization.

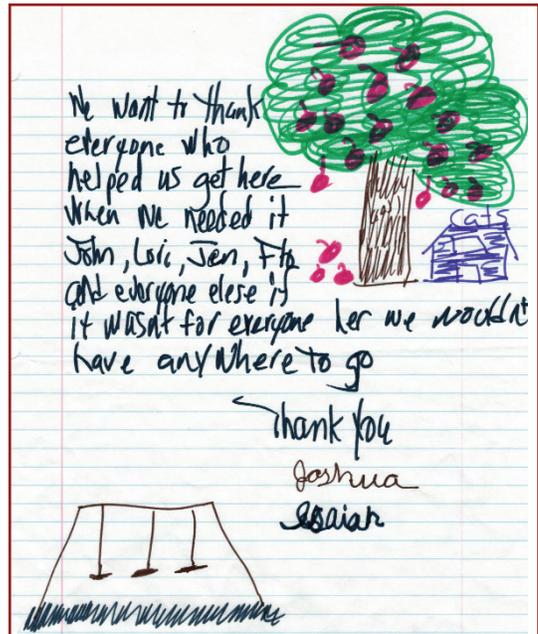
Donations are deductible for Tax purposes.

Our federal identification number (EIN) is 45-5115992.



To donate by **Credit or Debit Card** please go to our web site: www.DeepRootsInc.com click on "How to Donate" tab.

For **United Way** designated giving in Cecil County, Maryland, designate: Deep Roots, Inc. In Delaware, use the Agency Code Number for Deep Roots, Inc.: 12904



Key Contact Persons:

- **Jessica Stone** – *Children's Program Coordinator*
 Questions about the Afterschool Program, Widening Horizons Monthly Events, and Holiday Parties
 302-588-2350 Jessica@deeproootsinc.org
- **Lori Goldsmith** – *Administrator*
 Questions about donations, board of directors, mission trips, work groups, etc.
 410-275-2194 info@deeproootsinc.org
- **Jennifer Hizer** – *Volunteer Maryland Coordinator*
 Questions about volunteering
 302-588-2159 Jennifer@deeproootsinc.org
- **John Harris** – *Case Manager, Clairvaux Farm*
 Questions or looking for transitional housing program.
 302-588-0129 John@deeproootsinc.org



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 Deep Roots



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
- Fresh vegetables & fruit
- Toothpaste, tooth brushes
- Blankets & single bed sheets
- Brooms: regular & push type
- Bleach / Lysol / Cleanser / All-purpose cleaners
- Children's Clothing: All sizes
- Whole grain bread
- Coffee, sugar & creamer
- Children's snacks
- Flour
- 100% Fruit juice



- Salt & Pepper
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Pasta
- Baby Formula
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Women's hygiene items
- Laundry detergent
- Dish & liquid hand soap
- Trash bags (39 gallon & all sizes)
- Twin Sheets
- Dishes, cups, plates, bowls & flatware
- Disposable diapers, all sizes 2 - 5 / wipes
- Cat & kitten food (dry or canned) - as we always have cats who come to Clairvaux Farm one way or another to get looked after - also dog food for Marge.

