



Maytown Messenger

The Maytown Center: A Faith-based Community Center In Eastern Kentucky



Dreaming BIG By Beth Chauncy



This summer's theme, "Dream Big," was almost like dropping a large stone into the waters of the Maytown Center (and I'm not talking about Beaver Creek!) The ripples are still going. "Dream Big" was the central idea for the summer camps and the Swinging Sensations' Homecoming Show.

During one camp week, dreams were compared to seeds. Both start small but have great potential. Each person was invited to paint something to represent a dream or goal on a piece of canvas shaped like a seed. On the last day of the week, a giant painting of a tree was presented. The dream "seeds" had been transformed into the leaves of the giant tree. Like the tree, accomplished dreams often grow into something much bigger than first envisioned.

The "Dream Big" theme has grown in ways none of us in the planning stages imagined. People have been encouraged to pursue their dreams. There is Willie Elliot who is working on writing his first book. Some sang on stage at the Mountain Arts Center's summer program, Front Porch Pickin'. Kathy Curtis has begun interviewing matriarchs of Maytown for a book about mountain woman. A group of budding writers are meeting weekly to craft short stories. Art classes are beginning again, with the hopes of concluding classes in the spring with an art show. I am delighted to see the steps being taken towards accomplishing dreams.

Dreams are like compasses planted within us. They point us in the direction of the places we would never have the courage or motivation to discover on our own. Following God-given dreams is really an act of faith. It's believing in the love of God and the great value he places on each of us and trusting him to give us the help we will need along the way.

May our accomplished dreams be tributes to the God of hope and potential—the one who sees us and loves us as we are, but also sees and directs us towards what we can be.



Beth Chauncy is the wife of Dan Chauncy and mother of Corianna(4) & Maggie(2). She enjoys art, music, gardening & volunteering at the Maytown Center.

Quick Summer Numbers:
• 86 kids participated in an onsite camp or event, 118 offsite (Pageant Hills, Martin, Wayland, Garrett)
• 334 volunteers served through the Maytown Center this summer. Thanks CrossRoads Missions for all you hard work!



Taylor Allen, is a junior at ACHS. She enjoys playing piano & helps with our after-school program.

My Mountain Bike Experience By Taylor Allen

Quick MTB Notes:

- 8 Students completed the 7 week course
- Since completing the course, 4 students have purchased quality Mountain Bikes
- We welcome donations of Mtn. Bikes for kids
- Dan needs an adult to help with rides in fall & Spring

Mountain biking with the Maytown Center has been among the most rewarding experiences of my life. I've seen so much growth in myself since I began the adrenaline rush this early spring.

Being a girl of smaller stature, I normally

attempt to steer clear of anything which involves having a lot of strength. I'd never imagined myself riding 10 plus miles in one day, through rock, mud, and running water, to the top of steep mountains, on thin, bumpy trails just inches alongside treacherous cliffs and drop offs.

Mountain biking has expanded my faith and relationship with Jesus Christ, helped me to overcome many physical and mental weaknesses, and has given me the strength of a warrior. However the most valuable perspective I've gained from it is a heightened awareness of the world around me. While riding on the trails, trying to keep up with the other riders, there isn't a lot of time to stop and admire

plants and animals. However, being the only girl in the group makes taking a rest and being the slow poke a tad more acceptable.

I'll admit to stopping while being the straggler in the group, to marvel at odd mushrooms, gigantic spider web "mansions," funny looking insects or to collect interesting rocks and pebbles. To experience the beauty and wonder of creation has been by far the most magnificent part of the mountain biking experience for me.

God has painted and composed such a spectacular world, filled with beautiful people. This realization, along with the thrill of my life, is what I have gained from mountain biking.



2008 Maytown Mtn. Bike Team trip to Laurel Lake, KY



Search the web with Yahoo-powered **GoodSearch.com** and they'll donate a penny to the Maytown Center each time you search!

MC made close to \$50 last year. It is a simple way to support the work of the Maytown Center. Try it & let us know!

“Web Protection Tip”

A great way to avoid “Trash” sites & it's Free.

www.K9webprotection.com

It works well in our Library's Internet Lab!

Ways to help:

- Electricians to help with the main building and staff house
- Windows for all the buildings
- New items for the students to earn in the point store
- Volunteers-to help lead, teach, organize, clean, build...
- Consider supporting the Maytown Center mission by being a one time or monthly donor
- **Pray for:**
 1. Fall Adult & Youth programs
 2. Rampant drug crisis in our area (6 over-doses in one week in Floyd county, in September)
 3. Provision for financial needs
 4. For the Maytown Center to hear & follow God's leading

Pie-eating contest at the Back to School Bash . Kathy Won!



We currently are staffed by Daniel Chauncy (9th year) & Kathy Curtis (4th year). Opportunities abound for people of all ages to get involved. Please pray for help and funding to recruit more staff as we grow!

All donations to the Maytown Center are tax deductible.

A Look at the New Mission Statement

By Daniel Chauncy,
Director of the
Maytown Center

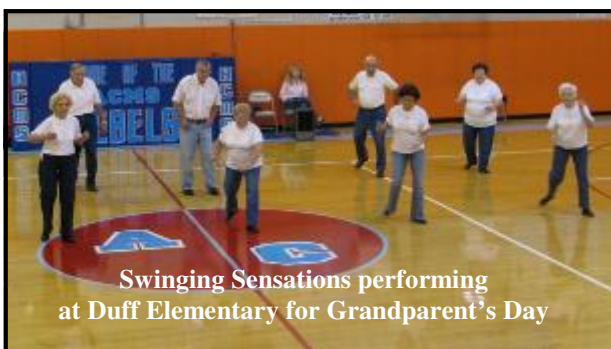
I am excited to introduce our new mission statement. I believe it better defines the Maytown Center & AIM. It reads as follows:

"Alive in the Mountains, Inc. is a faith based organization that exists to unlock the potential of individuals and like-minded organizations to build community, encourage hope, and change lives."

So what does that mean? Let's start with, **"A faith based organization."** While we are not a church and are not run by a specific church, we recognize that the greatest changes come through the power of God, and through relationships based in the love of God.

"Unlock the potential of individuals."

Many people feel they do not have much to offer or wonder if this is "as good as it gets." I believe when Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly," he was referring to all people of all ages. If we can help individuals realize their potential, it will open the door to a more fulfilled and purposeful life. An example of this is the retirement aged members of the Swinging Sensations performance group and how they often credit the director, Chalotte Soder, with restoring their zeal for living.



Swinging Sensations performing at Duff Elementary for Grandparent's Day

See www.youtube.com/studiostars22 to watch them in action.

"Unlock the potential of... like-minded organizations."

The greatest way we do this is by opening our facility to organizations that share a common mission, for little or no cost. Our current tenants/partners include Progressive Fitness, CrossRoads Missions, Narcotics Anonymous, & Martial Arts. Last year we welcomed John Vaughn to teach Martial Arts in the Gym. Through the summer we had to waive a percentage of his rent, due to low attendance. He was able to continue his business. During that time Bob* became involved in his class. He was shy and had little confidence. Through John's leadership and a few months of hard work, he has grown in both Tae-Kwon-Do skills and self confidence. He now is showing leadership in the classes, has found a job, and bought a car.

"Building Community."

Community building happens on the field at Ultimate Frisbee where any skill level is welcomed. It happens during Craft Nights or Writing Classes where adults are given an opportunity to be creative and build relationships. Community is built when work groups forge relationships among themselves and locals. It is happening on the streets where our staff and volunteers interact with people of the area.

"Encourage Hope". One example of this is our after-school program for 4-6th



One of three Summer Martial Arts Camps

grade students. Volunteers make it their priority to invest in the same handful of kids each week by helping with homework, staying connected with them, and celebrating accomplishments.

"Changing Lives." If we truly unlock potential and encourage hope in people, the possibility for good is beyond our imagination.



Alex May investing in a few youth at Martin, during a game of kick-ball

Mitch is a great example of this. He is a young adult who got involved at the Center when he was in high school. When asked how the Center has impacted his life, he said, "The Maytown Center is probably the whole reason I don't do drugs or am not in jail now. I was going down the wrong road."

May our mission, and yours, always be about "Building Community, Encouraging Hope, & Changing Lives."

*Name changed

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Non Profit
Permit #6
Langley, KY 41645



Alive in the Mountains, Inc.
Maytown Center
92 South Front St.
P.O. Box 214
Langley, KY 41645

life@maytowncenter.org
www.maytowncenter.org
MySpace.com/maytowncenter
(606) 285-0539 (office)
(606) 285-9080 (home)

Alive in the Mountains, Inc.

Address:

Sunset outside Martin, KY

Visit our Website!

www.maytowncenter.org

www.YouTube.com/maytowncenter

Have you ever considered coming to volunteer at the Maytown Center or bringing a group? Opportunities available for short and long-term volunteering.

Why Maytown?

Mark Essick was asked why he chose to bring his youth group back to Maytown for the 3rd summer.

My wife and I have been to Maytown, KY for three straight summers and some have asked us, "Why would you go back there every year?" It used to catch me off guard and to somewhat offend me. "Why would I not go back there?" would sometimes be my reply. The more it happened, the more I thought about it. I have started to realize that most people have never been there, and they have no clue what Maytown is. So now my response has become reasons why everyone would want to go to Maytown.

I know part of it is the setting. It is one of the most beautiful spots in the country. It is nestled in the midst of the Appalachians and covered with an abundance of forests. I knew that I had not left the country. Yet each morning when I woke up there was the sense that I was separated from the rest of the country; partly because I was completely surrounded by mountains and partly because the culture is like none other in America.

Part of it is the people. I have lived in big cities and in small towns, and I love both. One of the things I love about Maytown and the people there are the simple conversations you can have. In the city, people are always moving too fast to stop and chat. You have to make appointments and reservations just to spend time with your family. In Maytown I am able to sit in someone's front room and just talk about life. I can have conversations about how their garden is doing and where their family lives. People are willing share their lives with you.

And then part of it is the sweet tea!! People just don't know what real goodness is until they have a good ole southern glass of sweet tea. There are so many reasons why my wife and I love Maytown, and why we will be back as many times as the good Lord allows us.



Cindy, Mark & their kids. They came to Maytown with Southpoint Community Christian Church (Trenton, MI). Where Mark serves as the Youth Minister.