



# DEEP ROOTS

## AT CLAIRVAUX FARM



Vol. 2, No. 2

May, 2014



Nazareth College, Rochester NY, 20th spring break mission trip at Clairvaux Farm chapel in March

### Clairvaux Farm Update

It was just a year ago last May that Clairvaux Farm closed. Sometimes, in the course of human plans, the Spirit of God intervenes to lead in a new and different direction. We believe that is what happened. Now, exactly a year later, Clairvaux Farm is open again and its ministry is alive, well, and growing.

Even more than this: it is undergoing a rebirth of spirit. We have completed the renovation of the first residence building, which is now occupied with two families, and are we far along to completing the second. We hope to have the third (the main residence building) completed by mid-summer and this will greatly increase our capacity for families with children experiencing homelessness. The mission trips and work camps we have scheduled for spring and summer will play a vital role in this.

Clairvaux Farm is a place of refuge for families experiencing homelessness, but it is much more. It is an empowering community: a peaceful, beautiful and friendly village-home. The mission is to offer parents and their children the resources and encouragement necessary to develop a happy, hopeful, and fulfilled life. Our concept of transition and reintegration includes housing and individualized support, with the goal of ending each family's homelessness. Our partnership includes persons who were homeless and other committed volunteers, churches, service groups, and businesses.

Deep Roots is our specialized program focused on children and young people who have experienced homelessness. In April, as part of our monthly planned activities, we had a grand Easter egg hunt at Clairvaux Farm. Children of all ages scoured the

lawn for over 400 hidden plastic eggs! One four-year-old girl, who has come with her siblings to most all of our events, collected a grocery bag full of eggs and she would not let them go. She had to lug it around with two hands! She was so worried about losing her collected treasure that she sat at the top of the slide scared to come down because her huge bag was throwing her off balance! A nearby adult volunteer was honored when she trusted him to hold the bag until she slid down, whereupon she quickly took it back! So many children who have been homeless, or who live on the margins, are fearful of any further loss in their lives, and it shows constantly in many ways.

Deep Roots aims to replace fear and insecurity with confidence and happiness. It is the basis of future success and the end of a vicious cycle of homelessness that breaks young spirits.

You are cordially invited to:

### Clairvaux Farm Open House Sunday, June 22

Service: 10:30 Open House 11:30 - 4

- ◎ Special activities for all children
- ◎ Delicious food
- ◎ Tours of Clairvaux Farm
- ◎ Come and see what's happening!

All are invited Free of charge

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

# How Homelessness Spans Generations

by Ed Oceanic

**D**eep Roots at Clairvaux Farm Leadership Team meets once a week to consider families that need our support and how we can best help each one. Several weeks ago we got a call from a grandmother who was looking for help for her pregnant daughter, due in October, and her two grandchildren, ages 1 and 4. As a community, we knew both the grandparents and the parents.

This mother has been homeless since she was 12. She lost her youngest brother when social services took him away from the family when he was 9. She has 3 older children, two of whom were taken by the biological father and given to his parents to raise. The third child, whose biological father was deported, was adopted by a family after her mother had disappeared for several years. The second grandmother, now deceased, was a longtime resident in a homeless shelter, and the second grandfather, also long-term homeless, whereabouts unknown, has just resurfaced in Cecil County.

The first set of grandparents have lived for the last 13 years moving from place to place for a few weeks at a time; often living in a tent in Marina Park in Elkton. Their oldest grandchild even lived in a tent at the tender age of 4 after the rotating shelter closed. At one point the great grandmother offered gas money to anyone who would bring this child (then held by social services) to her trailer, where she was leasing space to another couple to make ends meet. Needless to say, she was not able to care for the child. Her daughter, mentioned previously, is the one who lost her youngest son to social services.

The father of the 1 and 4 year old just got out of jail in December after serving 17 months of a six year sentence. He refused to pay child support and insisted on paternity testing. He has spent most of his adult life in prison, once getting additional time for beating another inmate. In a twist of fate, he filed for custody and in early May was awarded custody of the 1 and 4 year old. Now their mother no longer needs help from Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm but the father might, and she may yet be asking for help in October after she delivers.

You may wonder why I am telling this long and complicated story of inter-generational homelessness. A person who has not seen it firsthand may not even begin to realize how children are caught in a repeating cycle of neglect and abuse. Homelessness thus often becomes ingrained in their lives as it has in the lives of their parents and grandparents.

The mother's oldest child, the

one previously mentioned who was adopted, now lives in a stable home and is getting academic achievement awards. The cycle of homelessness can be broken for children by caring stable adults. While adoption may be a solution for children who have been completely abandoned, it is obviously not the answer for most. However, all children who have experienced homelessness need stable mentors, even if they otherwise have caring families.

All children need solid anchors in their lives, but children who have experienced homelessness especially need a community of role models and peers to support them in rising above the chaos of their everyday life. They need love and commitment, and to be part of a "village" of hope and friendship to create the opportunity for them to break the cycle of homelessness. They need you and me, and communities like Deep Roots. We always ask and need your help to support them and we are deeply grateful for it.

## 2014 Clairvaux Farm Mission Trips

Feb 22	Elkton Presbyterian Church
Mar 9-15	Nazareth College (NY)
Mar 22	Elkton Presbyterian Church
Apr 26	Elkton Presbyterian Church
Apr 26	Cecil County Christmas in April
May 30-Jun 1	Immanuel United Church of Christ (MD)
Jun 22-28	St. Pauls United Church of Christ (PA)
Jun 29-Jul 3	Elkton Presbyterian Church
Jul 6-12	Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church (PA)
Aug 10-16	Wallingford Presbyterian Church (PA)
Sept 19-21	Lititz Church of the Brethren (PA)
Oct 10-12	Immanuel United Church of Christ (MD)
Nov 8-11	Worcester Unitarian Universalist (MA)

We are still scheduling church mission trips for the summer and fall to complete the work. If you are aware of any group, large or small, who may wish to help please contact Udo Sommerhoff, Mission Trip Coordinator, by email: [udo@deep-rootsinc.org](mailto:udo@deep-rootsinc.org) or cell phone: 410-441-4026.



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

**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.

## Shop at Amazon.com?

Just go through "Amazon Smile" and 5% of the amount of your purchase will be donated to Deep Roots, and it adds nothing to the cost of your purchase. It's just that easy! Go to:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-5115992>

and make your purchase. Details and a direct link are also on the Deep Roots website:  [www.DeepRootsInc.org](http://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. 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)

### 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.*

## In Loving Memory of **Donna Irene Hill**

January 26, 1946 - April 10, 2014

†

Beloved friend of women and volunteer at Wayfarers' House

## Deep Roots 2014 Board of Directors

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**John Harris** welcomes newly arrived families to Clairvaux Farm



Easter Egg hunt at Clairvaux Farm. Zoe and Asha [left] are part of the team that hid over 400 eggs! Every one found (we hope!)

## SPECIAL VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

### Web Designer

Deep Roots, Inc. is currently seeking a passionate web designer that specializes in establishing an effective social media presence. We need continuity in our communication to fully maximize and proudly display the amazing things that are taking place at Clairvaux Farm! Maybe you are a student looking for experience in the field, a budding entrepreneur hoping to gain exposure or a seasoned professional that is willing to offer your talents to an exceptionally worthy cause. If this is you or someone you know, please contact Stephen Lively:

[stephen.m.lively@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.m.lively@gmail.com)  
for more information.

**[Right]** Elkton Presbyterian Church Mission Trip to Clairvaux Farm - their 2nd this year!

### Gardener

Clairvaux Farm Community Garden Support: Clairvaux Farm is developing a community garden. Volunteers with and without gardening and farming experience are needed. Come play in the dirt and develop ongoing relationships with the folks at Clairvaux Farm! We Want You! Volunteers are needed for all stages of gardening. Please contact Abby Miller:

[abby@deprootsinc.org](mailto:abby@deprootsinc.org)



### 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:  
[udo@deprootsinc.org](mailto:udo@deprootsinc.org)  
410-441-4026

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

### Current Needs

Deep Roots is a non-profit 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
- Canned corn
- Quinoa
- Brown rice
- Dry beans
- Canned beans
- Vegetable seeds for gardening
- Fruit juices
- Fresh vegetables & fruit, potatoes
- Laundry detergent
- Toothbrushes
- Hand soap
- Assortment of batteries: 9v, AA, AAA
- Blankets
- Single bed sheets
- Children's clothing in very good condition
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels / tissues
- Cleaning supplies
- Brooms: regular & push type
- Bleach / Lysol / Cleanser / Window cleaners / All-purpose cleaners, etc.
- CHILDRENS' 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 last summer.
- A pick-up truck in good running condition