

**ALW EARTHLINK
AUGUST 2007**

In this issue.....

August Birthdays

'Giving Project' Update

Camp H.O.P.E. 2007

Thank You to Camp H.O.P.E. Patrons

Upcoming Fundraiser --

Come to WILDCAT WEEKEND!

Environmental News

And Finally.....

August Birthdays

Kristin Richardson (Honorary Angel) – August 4

Tanushree – August 5

Traci – August 9

Sue – August 19

We hope your celebrations are happy ones and that the year ahead will be one of your best years ever!

'Giving Project' Update

As everyone knows, Kevin Richardson (ALW's Honorary Chairperson) is a new Daddy! Kevin and his wife Kristin welcomed their son Mason into the world on July 3, 2007.

In lieu of gifts for Mason, ALW is making a special donation to a Lexington, Kentucky crisis pregnancy center in the Richardson family's honor. We are accepting monetary donations (no amount is too small!), as well as baby items (clothing, diapers, baby toiletries, etc.) for the center from now until August 10. We will be delivering the donations to the center during the weekend of August 18. Everyone who makes a donation of any kind to this 'giving project' fundraiser is automatically entered in a raffle for a Kentucky surprise package – a package that includes a soft-sculpture baby boy doll that was hand-made in Irvine, Kentucky (where Kevin himself grew up as a boy!).

We have already collected over \$175 in monetary donations, and we have a big box full of brand-new baby items that is waiting to be delivered to the center! We want to say a special 'thank you' to all of you who have already contributed to this very special 'giving project.'

Camp H.O.P.E. 2007

This year's environmental summer camp for underprivileged Appalachian youth went off without a hitch – even the weather cooperated with us! 15 kids came to ALW's Camp H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Planet Earth) totally free-of-charge, thanks to the generous donations of many sponsors and 'adopters.' Each child was welcomed into his/her cabin with a handmade quilt on his/her bunk, with a duffel bag full of everything he/she would need for the week, and with other surprises and gifts

donated by companies and individuals. The week was full of ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (workshops on bats, bugs, reptiles, mountains, wilderness survival, sustainability, SLIME, pond studies, nature photography, environmental heroes and more), ADVENTURE (an off-site field trip to Lexington, horseback riding, hiking, rappelling, archery, swimming and more), and FUN (breakfast at McDonald's on field trip day, outdoor and indoor games, dancing, a Western theme night, family night and more). Each child received postcards and letters from their 'adopters' during daily 'mail call,' each received a tee-shirt from his/her 'adopter's' home states, and each received special gifts from his/her 'adopters,' chosen specifically for each, individual child. Almost every one of the kids commented that they just couldn't believe that people who didn't even know them would care enough to do all this for them. One boy came up to us just before check-out and said "This has been the BEST WEEK OF MY ENTIRE LIFE!" We hope to have pictures up on our website soon, to give you a little more of a feel for what Camp H.O.P.E. was like.

We send HUGE shout-outs and big (((((((hugs)))))) to ALW Angels Becky, Betty ("Security"), Ali, Jerry, Steve ("Stretch"), and Jennifer for being part of the 2007 Camp team and for helping make 15 children feel so safe, so happy and so loved. We can't wait until NEXT YEAR!

Thank You to Camp H.O.P.E. Patrons

The following is a list of the businesses, individuals and groups who helped ALW make Camp H.O.P.E. 2007 the wonderful week that it was. If any of the businesses listed here are in your local area, we encourage you to support them!

ALW Angels: Becky, Betty, Ali, Steve, Jennifer, Jerry, Judi, Jane, Lynne, Tyna, Amber, Maddie, Ann, Meg, Terri, Robert, Jenny, Malessa, Kizzy

Other individuals: Dick, Jill, Ronnie, Perry, Bridget, Margaret, Don, Theresa, Ryan, Shirley, Tom, Andy, Cindy, Domain Staff, Al Gore, Robert Kennedy, Jr., John and Theresa Kerry, Tomo Mitzutani, Billy Bennett, Mike Flynn, Kevin Richardson

Groups: St. Peter Church, St. Peter Faith Sharing Group, the Chicago Bears, the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington (Cathedral Domain), Eastern Kentucky University

Businesses: A&A Global Industries (Maryland), RCA Label Group (Nashville), McDonald's Corporation (Indiana), Wal-Mart (Illinois), Wal-Mart (Kentucky), Fame Master Enterprises, LTD (China), New Jersey Commerce & Economic Growth Commission (New Jersey), Tops Malibu (Oregon), Absopure Water (Michigan), NECCO Candy/New England Confectionary Company (Massachusetts), National Confectioners' Association (Virginia), Bat Conservation International (Texas), Bat World Sanctuary (Texas), Canadian Bat Houses (Canada), A Mother's Dream (Indiana), Lids (Indiana), Lids (Kentucky), Lids (Illinois), Humphrey Company (Ohio), Thrasher Magazine (California), Focus Skateboard Magazine (Florida), Coca-Cola Bottling Company (Kentucky), Kiss the Sky Records (Illinois), Classic Cinemas (Illinois), Borders Books (Illinois), Choo Choo B Snacks (Pennsylvania), Trans World Motocross Magazine (California), Nitto Tire (California and Japan), Jewel Food Stores (Illinois), Scholastic Book Fairs (Illinois), Guitar Center (Illinois), Fat Cat Guitar (Illinois), Kroger Food

Stores (Ohio), Kroger Food Stores (Kentucky), D'Angelo Natural Spring Water (Illinois), Dominick's Finer Foods (Illinois), Atlanta Bread Company (Kentucky), Lyric Street Records (Tennessee), Land and Sea (New York), Dinosaur Fight Records (California), Bluegrass Airport Gift Shop (Kentucky), Sony BMG Music (New York), U-Haul (Illinois), Leapin' Lyrics Music Store (Illinois), Jive/Zomba Records (New York), Sanford Corporation (Illinois), Doumak, Inc. (Illinois), Kentucky Horse Park (Kentucky), Best Buy (Illinois), K-Mart (Illinois), Rutledge Publishing (Tennessee), Palmer Candy Company (Pennsylvania), Helzberg Diamonds (Missouri), Water Industries/Panther Vision (Illinois), Dennis Riggs (Florida), Homedics (Michigan), Peachtree Publishers (Georgia), Cartamundi (Minnesota), Salamander Graphix (California), Powerstar Collectibles Inc. (New Jersey), Ale-8-One Bottling Company (Kentucky), Equus (Florida), Thoroughbred Times Magazine (Kentucky), Blood Horse Magazine (Kentucky), Party City (Kentucky).

We apologize if we have inadvertently left anyone off this list! As you can see, this year's list is quite extensive!

Upcoming Fundraiser – Come to WILDCAT WEEKEND!

We want to continue to bring underprivileged youth to Camp H.O.P.E. It costs \$300 per child just to get them to the Camp. It costs another \$125 for us to be able to provide them with all their supplies, activities, camp shirt and yearbook – the things that make the week even more memorable for the campers.

We have always been fortunate to have many generous people 'adopt' our campers at the \$125 amount, but we have relied HEAVILY on successful fundraising for the remainder of our camp costs.

We know that people get 'hit' daily for \$\$\$\$, and we also know that there are many, many active, important, worthwhile charitable organizations competing for that \$\$\$\$.

BUT – we hope that each of you will still see the importance of Camp H.O.P.E. – not only for the children attending, but for the environment in general and for all future generations who will inherit our fragile planet. We hope you will continue to support ALW, our Honorary Chairperson Kevin Richardson, and the Earth by supporting Camp H.O.P.E. The future depends on ALL of us!

So – what's up next in the way of ALW fundraising? **READ ON!**

ALW

proudly presents:

KENTUCKY WILDCAT WEEKEND!

September 28 & 29, 2007

Lexington, Kentucky

As you all know, following the UK Football Team is one of Kevin Richardson's most enjoyable 'extracurricular activities.' We've made officially approved arrangements with the University of Kentucky Athletics Office to present an

exciting, FOOTBALL-THEMED weekend of fun for you (and a fundraising opportunity for ALW)!

**Punt with a purpose
Please catch what we're doing
Give on the Gridiron
And we'll be cheering, not 'boo-ing'!
Join us at UK for some good tailgate fun –
Make a touchdown for the kids and you'll be #1!**

In the next day or two, you will all be receiving an official e-mail with **ALL THE DETAILS** about our Wildcat Weekend Fundraiser – all the different package prices, how you can sign up and what the registration deadlines are. But please note: **IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND THE UK FOOTBALL GAME ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, WE NEED YOUR \$65 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT (to secure your game seat) IN OUR HANDS NO LATER THAN AUGUST 30.** Any reservation made after August 30 cannot be guaranteed a ticket for the football game. (Of course, you can still sign up for the rest of the party until September 10, at which time all party reservations close.)

And don't forget! ALW supporters who cannot get to Kentucky in September will **STILL** be able to bid on our awesome **AUCTION** prizes and will **STILL** be able to purchase raffle tickets for several other items! You'll have until September 25 to place bids/purchase raffle tickets if you do not attend, and you'll have until September 28 to place bids/purchase raffle tickets if you attend the event. Winners will be announced at the September 29 tailgate party at UK!

Auction items/raffle prizes are still coming in – but here is a sample of what is available:

An OFFICIAL, UK Football – Signed by UK's Coach!

A microphone SIGNED BY KEVIN RICHARDSON!

An official, retro 'I LOVE BSB' MUG filled with UK novelties

A UK MUG filled with football candies

A pair of 'photo' boxer shorts displaying a photo of Kevin Richardson wearing UK clothing!!!!

A special 'Memory Box' displaying a photo of Kevin Richardson wearing UK clothing, with a UK surprise inside the box!

A one-of-a-kind Kevin Richardson puzzle in a special photo tin!

AND --

A PAIR OF KEVIN RICHARDSON'S STAGE PANTS FROM THE BLACK AND BLUE TOUR – COMPLETE WITH CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY!

Is that enough to get you excited? We hope so ... and more items are **STILL** coming!

Be watching for the e-mail with all the details about ALW's **WILDCAT WEEKEND** – but save the dates of September 28-29! Mark your calendar now! This is going to be one **BIG BLUE PARTY!!!!!!**

(NOTE: KEVIN RICHARDSON WILL NOT BE IN ATTENDANCE AT ALW'S WILDCAT WEEKEND.)

Environmental News

Leonardo DiCaprio Environmental Film Set For Release

Leonardo DiCaprio's new environmental film, **THE 11TH HOUR**, will open on August 17 in New York and in Los Angeles. On August 24, it will open in dozens of other cities, and in the following weeks it will open across the entire United States of America. We encourage you to go see the movie as soon as you can, and invite your friends to view it with you!

The film documents the environmental crises the world faces and the solutions we need to urgently implement. The trailer can be viewed online at:

<http://www.11thhouraction.com/trailer>.

With the help of over 50 of the world's most prominent thinkers and activists, including reformer Mikhail Gorbachev, physicist Stephen Hawking, and Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai, **THE 11TH HOUR** documents the grave problems facing the planet's life systems. Global warming, deforestation, mass species extinction, and depletion of the oceans' habitats are all addressed. However, the most powerful element of **THE 11TH HOUR** is not a portrait of a planet in crisis, but an offering of hope and solutions. The film ends with a call for restorative action through reshaping human activity.

Go to **www.11thhouraction.com** to learn more, and to pledge to see the film when it opens.

(From Global Green USA)

Reusable Bags Are A New Fashion Trend

London designer Anya Hindmarch made headlines with her clever canvas bags that read, "I am not a plastic bag." Fashion for a noble cause? Or simply a case of accessory envy? Either way the message is clear: People can do good while they look good.

Lauren Bush seems to think so. "It helps that people are becoming more conscious and showing support," says the model and niece of President Bush, who became a youth ambassador for the U.N. World Food Program three years ago. Inspired by the large sacks of food rations, she designed the Feed bag – each purchase of which feeds a school child for one year (and yes, cousin Barbara has been sporting one). Jaye Hersh, proprietor of the Hollywood boutique Intuition, created her Market bags – four styles in cheeky monogrammed plaid plastic – to give back to the International Rescue Committee, supporting war-affected women and children. "I was hoping that I could affect some kind of change," Hersh says. "Take all this abundance and celebrity and must-have hysteria and create something that could actually do some good."

Check out the Feed bag at **www.Feedprojects.org**.

Check out Market bags at **www.shopintuition.com**.

Check out Baggu reusable ripstop shopping bags in eight colors at **www.Baggubag.com**.

Check out Metro clutch benefiting Create Now, an organization helping troubled children, at www.Freddyandma.com.
(From the Washington Post)

It's Summer Seed Season!

Summer is the season of seeds. Inside every fruit and vegetable, atop wind blown grasses and following each flower, seeds form. They may be sequestered inside cones, embedded in flesh and carried in pods of every size and shape. What all these share is the miraculous spark of life and the potential of a whole new plant. Now is the time to collect seeds while they are fresh and viable. Seed gathering, whether it is from your own garden plants or from wayside places, can be a most satisfying way to spend time with kids. It can be a lot like an Easter egg hunt once the kids know what to look for. In the process you can help them identify the plants each seed comes from. They will learn to find the structures that bear seed, separating them from the rest of the plant. In the process they will come to recognize the huge diversity of seed size and shape from the giant acorn to tiny chia. When you go for a walk in the park, seeds may be collecting beneath a maple tree or blowing in great cottony tufts from the poplars. Each introduces a new lesson to the kids. Cottonwood seed fluff helps its seed travel on the wind. It will continue moving so long as the land is dry. But if it lands on wet ground where a poplar or cottonwood seed would stand a chance of germination, the fluff collapses immediately. There it sits in the damp mud as the seed quickly sprouts before the surface dampness evaporates.

In the woods, wild seeds are everywhere. Shake a newly opened fir or pine cone to see the seeds drop out.

Once a seed source is found you can collect a small number of the seeds to take home. Identify the plant on the internet or in a local field guide. See what cool facts you can come up with to help remember it.

Store your seed collections in clear plastic containers that allow you to see the seed, not just a label. This further connects what a seed looks like with the name of the plant it came from. Flat plastic jewelry bags make perfect see-through containers that keep seeds fresh and viable. Old Tic Tac boxes work nicely, too. Mark the name of the seed on the container with a Sharpie. It's easy to forget the origin of the seed weeks or even years down the road.

The best part of seed collecting is the living memories it plants into young minds. But what may live even longer is that maple or cottonwood tree that grew from the collected seed. That tree will retain special meaning, emphasizing the appreciation of small living things capable of one day creating staggering strength and beauty.

(By Maureen Gilmer, host of "Weekend Gardening" on DIY Network)

The Future of Wind Power

While wind energy is the fastest growing source of energy in the world, it's an open question whether current wind turbine technology is good enough to generate the massive amounts of power needed to significantly displace fossil fuels. But a pair of turbine innovations might be the breakthroughs that finally make wind the dominant power source of the future.

The first design scraps the entire idea of a windmill-like turbine, instead looking more like a spinning double helix. Designed by Bill Becker, a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the turbines are made to be installed on city rooftops. Like photovoltaic systems, with which they can be integrated, these quiet, roof-mounted turbines produce energy at the site of consumption, reducing the need for transmission and allowing the owner to sell power back to the grid. The turbines also need little maintenance, can utilize gusting winds and those that blow from different directions, and pose no danger to birds.

The other innovation turns a conventional turbine on its side, allowing the blades to rotate on a vertical axis. According to the designers, the vertical blades capture about 45% of the wind's energy, as compared to 25-40% for conventional turbines. Equally important, conventional turbines must be shut down in winds faster than 50 miles per hour, while vertical turbines can operate in winds of up to 70 miles per hour. This means that sturdier vertical turbines might be ideal for offshore projects.

Both technologies have tremendous potentials. The helix-shaped turbines, being manufactured in the Chicago neighborhood of Pilsen, are ideally suited for Chicago's tall buildings and gusting winds. Likewise, vertical-rotor turbines could be used offshore to tap the power of Lake Michigan, which a University of Wisconsin study finds have a wind energy potential of 9,700 megawatts, or enough to power over 7 million homes.

(By Paras Bhayani, Massachusetts Sierra Club)

Did you know.....

-That Brazil has more cars that run on ethanol than on conventional fuels?
-That American operating rooms throw away about 2,000 tons of unused surgical supplies every year?
-That the species at the top of the ocean food chain – large, predatory fish – have declined 90% in the past 50 years?
-That biking to work one day per week would reduce the average commuter's greenhouse gases by 1,000 pounds of carbon per year?
-That the United States currently has an obsolete computer for every 600 residents?
-The world consumes more than one million plastic bags per minute?

An 'Environmental Moment' with Linda

Linda is doing her part to recycle – but she's found a way to make a few \$\$ for ALW by doing it! She collects aluminum cans and takes them to a local scrap metal company, who buys her cans for \$.58/pound. Every little bit helps, so Linda is encouraging all you ALW Angels to turn your cans into ALW donation money, too! Remember to look for a scrap metal company in your area; recycling facilities will take your cans, but will not pay you cash for them.

AND FINALLY.....

"The things that matter the most in this world, they can never be held in our hand."

(Gloria Gaither)

***“Camp H.O.P.E. is
Paradise on Earth – Kentucky Style!”
(Julia)***

***“Thank you for touching the lives of some very beautiful children and for helping us
make dreams come true!”
(Linda and Wen)***

See you in September!

Linda and Wen