

**ALW EARTHLINK
NOVEMBER 2006**

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November Birthdays

Happy Birthday to these “Angels of Autumn” who were born in November!

Rhonda – November 1

Anita – November 4

Andrea – November 5

Kriss – November 10

Pat – November 11

Wen (ALW Cofounder) – November 13

Lisa – November 20

Juliana – November 26

“Mountains of Love” Project

Thanks to all of YOU, and in conjunction with USA Weekend Magazine’s annual “Make A Difference Day,” we ‘trekked’ down to Kentucky on October 28 with over 23 (whoo hooo!) boxes filled with holiday gifts for needy children in Appalachia.

We wish you could have seen the expressions on the faces of our contact personnel at the grade school – and we wish you could have heard their ‘oohs’ and ‘aaaahs’ as they peeked into the boxes that were loaded to the MAX with holiday gifts for the children -- hand-knit scarves and hats, brand-new winter clothing, hard cover books, puzzles, games, toys, dolls – even a Radio Flyer red wagon!

Just for your information, here are a few statistics about the area we delivered the gifts:

- 1. The counties in Kentucky that ALW serves are ranked some of the poorest in the nation, not just in Kentucky.**
- 2. 65% of the children in the counties ALW serves are considered poor.**
- 3. 90% of the children living in these counties are eligible to receive free or reduced-priced lunches at their schools.**
- 4. 23% of the parents of these children work varied shifts, making child care arrangements a significant challenge.**
- 5. In some of these counties, as many as 16.8% of the homes are classified as substandard. That is, it has more people than rooms and may be without indoor plumbing.**

As you can see, by bringing in our gifts of love to these children/families, we truly ARE making a difference.

We'll be submitting our "Mountains of Love" Project to the Make A Difference Day judges, with the hope that they will honor us with a monetary award to further our project and give even more assistance to the children!

Thanks again and again to each and every one of you who helped with this very, very special project. You truly are ANGELS!

ALW Events for 2007

While we were in Kentucky, we firmed up plans for some upcoming events/activities. Here are some dates for you to mark on your calendars!

April 28 – Annual Mountain Mushroom Festival, Irvine, Kentucky

ALW will have a booth at the Festival, with children's games, home-baked goods (made from recipes out of our JWR/ALW Cookbooks!), and crafts! Stop by and see us!

May 18-19 – Annual ROOTS & REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND, Lexington, Kentucky

This year's event is going to be called "Bluegrass Blitz!" We'll have "Taste of the Bluegrass" on Friday, and "Hands On the Bluegrass" on Saturday. We'll be focusing on the pride of the Bluegrass – its horses and horse farms – and the need to protect the environment in that area. We'll be visiting working horse farms and talking about environmental topics with the owners/groomers/workers/breeders. We'll be planting a tree, we'll be hosting our annual evening luminary candle ceremony – and in between, we'll be eating down-home Kentucky 'grub,' going on a hayride, taking a trail ride, and much, much more!!!! Watch upcoming newsletters for more information and for registration fees – but put this on your calendars NOW! You won't want to miss out!

**July 4 – Annual 4th of July Festival in Lexington, Kentucky
Come join us for an 'old-fashioned' fun 4th of July!**

July 15-21 – 2nd Annual Camp H.O.P.E.

Thanks to your generous donations, we'll be treating 14 middle school students to a week of environmental camp experiences – totally free of charge!

October 6 – Another very special ALW Event – details TBA!

As you can see, we have something for everyone all year long! And – these are just our EVENTS! Wait until you hear about our fundraisers! It's going to be a great 2007 – so come on along for the ride!

Holiday Fundraiser With a “Twist!”

What true fan wouldn't want a tiny gift box under his/her tree with a special treat from a favorite Backstreet Boy? Untie the silver or gold ribbon (decorated with a silver 'love' charm) and lift the lid of your personalized treat box to find two solid chocolate coins embossed with your favorite Boy's name (these are just like the delicious candies we offered last year) – AND – find some delicious pretzels (the 'twist' kind!) hand-dipped in your choice of milk or white chocolate! This makes the perfect holiday gift for “The Perfect Fan!”

The cost of these delightful little delicacies is \$2.50/box, plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling in the USA (slightly more for shipping and handling to other countries). When you order, make sure you tell us WHICH BOY'S BOX you want! SPECIAL DEAL – make a donation for all 5 Boys' boxes and you pay only \$10 (plus shipping and handling) – you're getting one Boy's box FREE if you order this way!

Also – with each box purchased, you get one raffle ticket for a special holiday gift package!

We'll have photos up on our website and on the Weird World message boards within the next few days – so check them out!

Ordering starts NOW and will end December 15 so that we can insure delivery by the holidays. Want to order? Contact us at alastingworld@sbcglobal.net

NOTE: ALL donations you make for these holiday treat boxes (we are 'eating' lol) the expenses) will go to the environmental charity of Kevin's choice – so – c'mon y'all – **be generous!**

Other Fundraiser Updates

JWR/ALW Cookbooks make great holiday gifts! Only \$10 – that's a real steal for such a great item!

Ornaments with the Kevin Richardson quote “Together we can make great things happen” also make a wonderful gift. Only \$3.00 while supplies last!

We still have a FEW of our limited-edition K.E.V.I.N. (Keeping Everyone Vested In Nature) tee-shirts in various sizes. They make a GREAT gift at only \$19.71 per shirt.

Seeded cards – send a friend a special sentiment in these blank cards. After they read the card, they can actually PLANT IT – the seeds are embedded right into the paper!

VERY Earth friendly – and beautiful designs, too! Only \$3.00 per card (and much better than store-purchased ones!).

For more information on these items, or to order them, contact us at alastingworld@sbcglobal.net.

Environmental News

Where Old Computers Go

Only about 10% of obsolete computers are currently recycled in the United States, which means that more than 2.5 million tons of electronic waste is dumped into landfills each year, according to the EPA.

E-waste is a new problem, and it's only going to grow unless everyone does his/her part. Find out where to recycle your old computer, instead of just sending it out in the trash! Learn about recycling electronics at

www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/recycle/ecycling/donate.htm. (From EPA)

No Coal in Idaho!

Idaho governor Jim Risch (Republican) believes his state can satisfy its energy needs without coal-fired power plants, so he's opted out of a federal mercury-pollution-trading program that would have paved the way for one to be built. Idaho is one of only three states that don't have any coal-fired power plants. "We have been meeting the increasing demand for electricity," Risch says, "without emitting one ounce of mercury." (from Sierra Club Magazine)

MTV Talks Global Warming

In between comedian Jack Black's hosting antics and Shakira's shaking hips, MTV made time for a speech by Al Gore at its annual Video Music Awards. With the channel's audience sharing Gore's concern about global warming – 81% of 13-to-24-year olds surveyed say that action must be taken right away – MTV has launched a two-part Break The Addiction Challenge, including a 12-step program to reduce personal contributions to global warming and a contest for U.S.A. and Canadian campuses to switch to 100% green energy. For more information, go to www.think.mtv.com.

(MTV)

Green Holiday Ideas

It's not too early to start thinking about the holidays. This year – think GREEN!

1. Buy recycled, organic, fair-trade and other environmentally friendly items.
2. Give green experiences such as a certificate to an organic restaurant, a produce subscription to a local farm or a membership to a local arboretum, zoo, cycling club or car-share program.
3. Give a gift membership to Sierra Club, Waterkeeper Alliance, NRDC, Environmental Defense, or other environmental organization.
4. Put a compact fluorescent bulb and some organic treats into an attractive, reusable container.
5. Wrap your gifts in reusable gift bags or make the wrapping part of the gift by swathing it in a scarf or other fabric.
6. Buy recycled, environmentally-friendly greeting cards. Go to www.shadowcasterpress.com for an example of the types of cards that are available.

For more ideas, visit www.newdream.org/holiday and www.wrapsacks.com, and www.gogreengift.com.

ALW – 2001-2006

Waaaaay back then -- 5 years ago – we were just three friends who had a dream. We wanted to do our part to make a real difference on this fragile, beautiful planet we call home. We wanted to educate and inspire others – especially children – to take positive environmental action at the grassroots level, in order to promote great and long-term care for the Earth. We had no idea how to do this, where to begin, or what path to follow. We just knew whom we wanted to help and why we wanted to help. Some people laughed at us, some people shook their heads at us, and MOST people didn't believe we were 'for real.'

But the four wonderful visionaries at Kevin Richardson's Just Within Reach Foundation (JWR) – Kevin and Kristin Richardson and Jim and Vicki Hanna – listened to us 'dreamers.' They believed in us, they encouraged us, they taught and guided us, and they inspired us. Because of them, we were able to "Dream, Believe and Achieve!"

And today – ALW is a small but strong and extremely active environmental organization with a WORLDWIDE membership of over 113 people. We've achieved a lot, and we have much more to accomplish – but we will never forget our humble beginnings and we will never, ever forget to thank you, the people reading this newsletter, for your trust, support and love.

It's only appropriate that we founded ALW on Thanksgiving Day, because Thanksgiving Day ALWays reminds us to be ALWays and forever thankful for each of you. Without you – our dream could not have come true. Without you – there would be no ALW. Without you – the Earth will not remain healthy.

**Happy Anniversary ALW – Happy Thanksgiving to all – and Happy EARTH DAY
– EVERY DAY!**

AND FINALLY.....

*“In all things of nature
there is something of the marvelous!”
(Aristotle)*

*“Next time a sunrise steals your breath
or a meadow of flowers leave you speechless,
remain that way. Say nothing, and listen
as Heaven whispers, “Do you like it?
I did it just for you!”
(Max Lucado)*

*“Today, let’s give thanks for life.
For life itself! For simply being born!
(Daphne Rose Kingma)*

**Happy Thanksgiving!
See you in December!**

**Love,
Linda and Wen**

