

## **October Fundraiser Update**

*Kevin Richardson's Birthday Bash*

One year ago this week, Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S.A. with a force like none the states of Louisiana and Mississippi had ever before experienced. We're sure many of you remember supporting ALW's 'Hurricane Relief

Fundraiser.' ALW raised enough money to assist the families of two of our own ALW Angels. We were extremely proud of the way ALW Angels from all over the world came together to help those in need.

We're asking all of you for that same enthusiastic, unselfish support again, and we're asking for that help for a catastrophic situation that lies hidden in the Appalachian Mountains of southeastern Kentucky. The situation?

The mountains of Appalachia are disappearing due to the practice of mountaintop removal mining. What is left in the wake of the disaster is poverty. Extreme poverty. In southeastern Kentucky, not very far from where the rest of us live a relatively comfortable existence, there are people barely making enough money to feed and clothe their families. The jobs the men once proudly performed in the underground coal mines have now been taken away from them and replaced with the destructive practice of mountaintop removal mining. Those men and women who do have the 'luxury' of a steady job are averaging an annual income of less than \$11,000. The practice of radical strip mining has left these families with homes that have been rocked off their foundations. The streams that once supplied them with water have been polluted with sulfuric acid and other heavy metals.

We've been there. Many times. We have visited with the people who are struggling just to survive. And we can see that the situation is not getting any better. So – we've made it one of ALW's main goals to take action and do something for the mountains and the people of Appalachia.

And we've decided to focus on the Appalachian kids. We want to help these Appalachian kids financially, but we also want to educate them and make them strong, responsible caretakers of the Earth. We want to continue to sponsor a summer environmental camp for needy kids – a camp that will help them reconnect with the natural world around them. This year, with many of you helping in many ways, we were able to sponsor the free-of-charge attendance at our camp of a group of 12 very needy middle school students. Over 60 kids qualified and applied for those 12 spots. We know the interest in an environmental camp is there, and we also know that the kids in that area won't be able to attend our camp unless we can pay their full expenses.

We're asking that you strongly consider supporting our October fundraiser, Kevin

Richardson's Birthday Bash! As you know, Kevin is ALW's Honorary Chairperson, and he has been our example, our guide, our hero, our friend and our supporter since ALW's inception. It was Kevin who gave us the idea of hosting a kids' camp in Kentucky, and it was Kevin who encouraged us not to give up that dream, even when others were telling us we'd never pull it off. Kevin has given us full approval for our October fundraiser event, and he has graciously agreed to allow us to use all the money we raise to support our 2007 environmental camp.

We know that the economy is tight for everyone. Gas prices are high, and other costs are rising. We can almost guarantee, though, that any of you reading this letter today are MUCH BETTER OFF than ANY of the families of the children who, blessed by your generosity, will attend our summer environmental camp. Kevin's Birthday Bash is October 6-8 in Lexington, Kentucky. For a mere \$64.74 (not including travel expenses and hotel) you can par-tay at three (count them – 3!) different events -- all celebrating Kevin! There's a football tailgate party, a picnic in the park, and Kevin's 35th Birthday celebration! You have until SEPTEMBER 15 to make your reservation. That is the ABSOLUTE, FINAL cut-off date to sign up to attend.

If you can't attend the Bash, there are K.E.V.I.N. (Keeping Everyone Vested In Nature) tee-shirts for sale, you can purchase raffle tickets for over 20 AWESOME items (you do not need to be present to win!), you can buy a Kevin candy bar or granola bar (you might get the Golden Ticket redeemable for a special prize!) and – there is the AUCTION!!!! Tee-shirts are available now. We start accepting bids for the AUCTION on September 1 – and you won't BELIEVE the ITEMS we have up for bids!!!! September 1 is also the date you can start purchasing raffle tickets, candy and granola bars. We'll have ALL the details for you on our website and in other e-mails we'll be sending you.

So – please – we're on our knees – yes – this time we're BEGGING! Please find it in your heart (and in your pocketbook!) to help ALW help needy kids!!!!

You won't regret it....and we promise you that you'll receive a whole lot more than you have to give!

Thanks in advance – we're anxiously waiting to hear from each and every one of you!

Love,

Linda and Wen  
ALW Cofounders