

The Inner Voice



The Newsletter of the St. Isaac of Nineveh - Gift of Tears Catholic Worker Winter '08

Dear Friends and Family,

This past August marked my 8th year providing programs and services from Appalachia to Asia solely on the donations I receive from you. With a growing number of shady charities and impenetrable bureaucracies it's really remarkable to be able to say you know that every cent you give goes *personally and purposefully* to those who need it most. You contribute what you can when you can. Together, without tax exemptions or any supplemental funding from grants, we are just people-helping-people....and....

LOOK WHAT WE'VE DONE !

- 4 summers of Camp Namaste for homeless and underprivileged children.
- *Countless* poor and low-income individuals and families served in 5 different Appalachian counties.
- 8 Spring Breaks, hosting 623 students from 21 universities and colleges across the country for their Appalachian Immersion Service Trips.
- 18 speaking engagements from West coast to East coast for audiences from 6 to 600.
- 26 retreats for junior high, high school students and adults.
- 34 visits to inmates in 3 different federal and state prisons.
- 37 issues of the Inner Voice newsletter addressing 7 major justice issues: World Hunger, School of the Americas, Stop the Bombs, Living Simply, Sustainability, Climate Change, Mountaintop Removal.

- 41 teens mentored.
- Over 70 boxes of donated items distributed to people in need.
- \$10,000+ fundraised for the people of Bandipur, Nepal.
- 1 cat, 4 dogs, 2 sheep, 2 rabbits, 6 gardens, 23 gallons of maple syrup, and dozens and dozens of fresh free-range eggs from 103 chickens.
- All this from 6 different houses in 3 different towns!



HAVING DREAMS & SETTING GOALS

Now that I am permanently settled on this beautiful piece of property, I am embarking on *another* adventure, and I invite you to continue along with me for the ride! It has been my dream to build an educational, outreach and retreat facility that *you* can share with me! My neighbor-the-architect, Bill Reichenbach, has agreed to help me design and build a small, dual-purpose "village" 1) to continue accommodating my groups, and 2) to provide a "mountain get-away" for those (like you!)

seeking some peace and quiet throughout the year. This center will be constructed in ways that incorporate the philosophies and values of simplicity and sustainability that I teach, and by which I attempt to live. By the year 2010, when I am 40 years old and have been in West Virginia for 10 years, we will be well on our way in the construction of:

- 1 modest, environmentally-friendly "Eat & Meet" Community House (living room, kitchen and dining area)
- 2 "green" bathroom facilities (compost toilets, solar heated showers and sinks)
- 3 simple, comfy, cozy cabins (sleeping 1-4).

We are just beginning to choose sites, draw up plans and gather readily available materials. As much as we are able, we'll buy supplies from local, privately-owned businesses and saw mills. **I have set a goal of \$50,000** and, as always, we will creatively stretch funding to meet our needs, welcome any volunteers, and work until the job is done. Meanwhile, it will be business as usual!

As we enter the seasons of Thanks and Giving, I thank you in advance for giving anything you can to help our efforts over the next two years. We've proven that a little bit from everyone can go a *l-o-n-g* way. "People helping people" definitely has its perks. Imagine...your own little time-share in the woods just for donating! That's better than a free set of Ginzu knives!!

peace for the holidays,

Jeannie

UPDATE ON “ONE BUCK FOR THE BHATTARAIS”

In the last issue of the *Inner Voice*, we celebrated reaching our goal of raising \$6,000 for a house for the Bhattarai family in Bandipur, Nepal. Here are the first pictures of it under construction! Sahadev sent these to me a couple months ago. My travel buddy from 2004, Chuck Conner, is there currently, on his fourth visit through Rotary International. He promises to bring back updated photos for us. Meanwhile, he’s been emailing his journal entries back home for our enjoyment. (*see excerpt* —>)

I am so very grateful for another opportunity to return to Bandipur one year from now, in November of 2009, with my dear friend, Christine Haskins. I can’t wait to show her the sights, introduce her to my friends, and see the school **you** helped to build!



thanks for your generous giving

Friday, November 21st, 2008

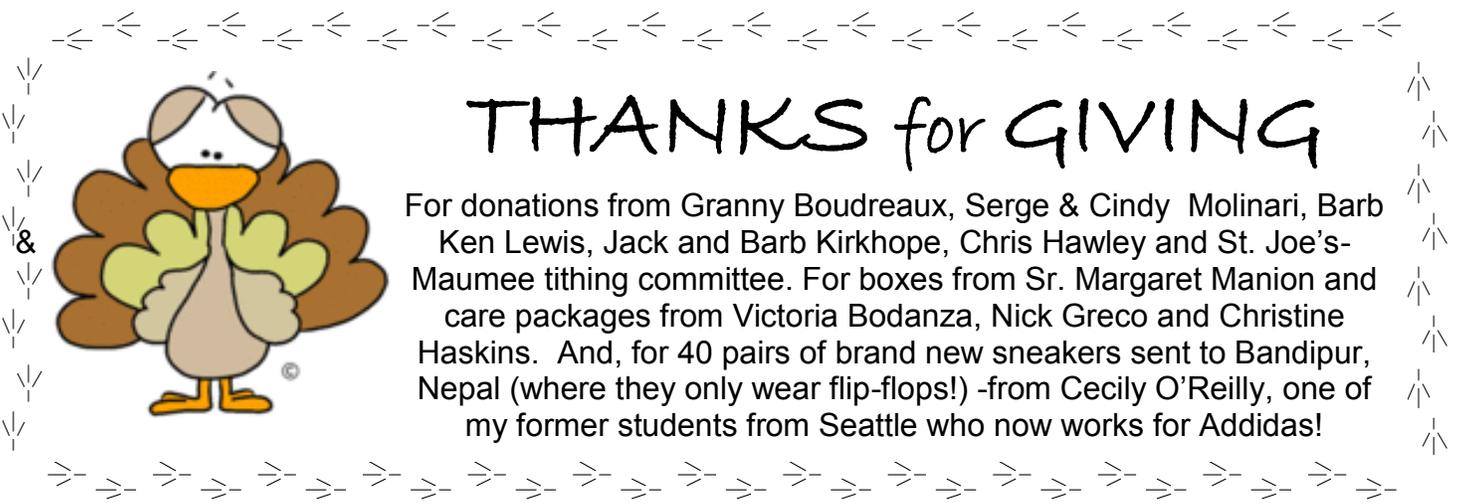
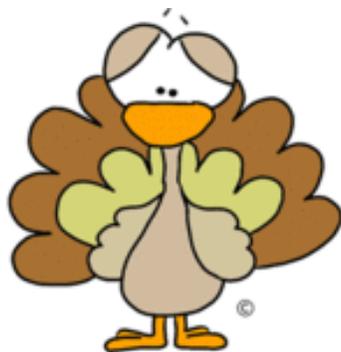
“We eventually began the uphill climb to the other schools. This wasn’t too bad; it was mostly winding up and around the mountains in a steady incline to about the mid point in elevation. The next school is one that Jeannie Kirkhope and her fundraising efforts had built almost two years ago. This one room school is about 30 x 30 ft, sits on a small space scraped level on a hillside and they have 50 children when they all show. When it is harvest time many stay at home to help in the fields or watch the other children. Today there were about 25 in attendance. There were two teachers today, one is an unpaid volunteer who we found out was going to be paid by a newly found sponsor. We handed out pencils, toothbrushes, WV pins, and left other school supplies and a first aid kit. We got a great group photo of the kids and teachers in the school. As people heard that we were there, additional kids came to school and several teenage mothers with their babies came to be a part of it all.”

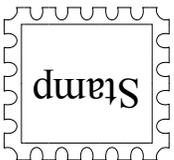
Chuck Conner- Bandipur, Nepal



THANKS for GIVING

For donations from Granny Boudreaux, Serge & Cindy Molinari, Barb Ken Lewis, Jack and Barb Kirkhope, Chris Hawley and St. Joe’s-Maumee tithing committee. For boxes from Sr. Margaret Manion and care packages from Victoria Bodanza, Nick Greco and Christine Haskins. And, for 40 pairs of brand new sneakers sent to Bandipur, Nepal (where they only wear flip-flops!) -from Cecily O’Reilly, one of my former students from Seattle who now works for Addidas!





The St. Isaac of Nineveh~
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The Catholic Worker
in Spencer, WV
strives to provide a
spiritual center of hope
in Appalachia by addressing
issues of poverty,
through education,
contemplation & outreach.