

June 2006

Middle Atlantic Region, American Friends Service Committee
W. Clinton Pettus, Regional Director

New Empowerment for Women Plus's summer home repair program is in full swing. Volunteers from the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) are making major repairs to one home and minor repairs to others. NEW Plus refers low-income families and elderly individuals who need help with home repairs to the ASP and YouthWorks, which bring hundreds of volunteers into Logan County throughout the summer. YouthWorks has already painted two houses and a church and are working on a handicap ramp for an elderly lady. NEW Plus also hosted a Quaker work team from the Indianapolis First Friends Meeting. NEW Plus is helping three other families through funds received from AFSC's Gifts of Heart and Hope.



Home repair season is under way in Logan County, WV

The Pennsylvania State Program finished its intensive 14 city spring tour of the Eyes Wide Open Exhibit at a Wal-Mart parking lot in Lewisburg on Memorial Day weekend. The exhibit was made particularly meaningful by the addition of the boots of Nick Berg. Nick was a contractor in Iraq who was captured and eventually beheaded. His father, Michael Berg, had asked us if we would include his boots in the PA exhibit.

The Maryland Eyes Wide Open Exhibit visited Frederick on May 17 and 28, sponsored by Women in Black and the Frederick Friends Meeting. The exhibit was in Baltimore from June 13 to 19, sponsored by the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart as part of their national Community Days.

The DC Peace and Economic Justice Program is turning its work in support of immigration rights to community education, specifically targeting faith leaders. The goal is to help religious groups reflect on the relationship between faith and responsibility for justice. A May event drew 45 faith leaders, who listened to testimony from an AFSC-MAR/DC volunteer from Sierra Leone who related an immigration experience and reflected on the current debate from a human perspective.

The **Upper New York State** staff sponsored a booth at the annual Juneteenth Festival on June 17, where they distributed counter-recruitment materials, information about AFSC programs and free children's books.

Upper New York State's Linda Williams is consulting with members of the CAFFE program who live in Springfield Gardens (a housing development where the group has been meeting) regarding a revelation that the property management company did improper asbestos removal in the buildings there. Tenants' rights concerns drew many people to CAFFE meetings.

The **DC Peace and Economic Justice's Program Director, Zainabu Dance**, and Lena Heid, volunteer with the AFSC-MAR/DC Leadership Program, conducted a two-day workshop at Howard University in June. Using the HIP model, the program leaders trained 70 students from all over the United States, the US Virgin Islands, Barbados and Bahamas who

are interested in coming to the Howard University Medical School.

The West Virginia Economic Justice Program is a leader in an effort by a coalition of progressive groups to make West Virginia's tax system fairer. With assistance from local individuals and national groups, WVEJ's Rick Wilson is compiling a report called "Fair Taxes for WV," which is to be released July 5. A number of groups have signed on to the action, including two fairly large groups who usually don't work together: the WV Environmental Council and the WV AFL-CIO.

Help Increase the Peace Network coordinator Kathryn Liss and Heather Wynkoop of the Upper New York State program represented the Middle Atlantic Region at the HIPP national gathering in Boston over Memorial Day weekend.

The Pennsylvania State Program co-sponsored a **Citizens Hearing on Healthcare Reform** in Pittsburgh at which John Conyers spoke on HR 676 and the need for a single payer healthcare system. Staff distributed the Listening Project report, People Count: Listening to Voices about Healthcare.

The Baltimore Urban Peace Program welcomes **Oliver Schwab**, a summer intern with the Partnership for Social Justice.

Compiled by Beth Spence