



*Ruth Ann enjoyed her time as volunteer and now as a Foothills employee at the Powell County Housing Office.*

## Hard Work Pays Off

Reliable, charming, organized, and trustworthy. That's how countless people at Foothills depict Ruth Ann Kearns.

Last fiscal year (June 06 – July 07) more than 1,500 people volunteered in one of Foothills numerous programs. Ruth Ann was one of those many volunteers.

Ruth Ann, 64, began volunteering at the Estill County Outreach Office in June 2006. At the Outreach Office, staff and volunteers work with people in financial crises to help meet their immediate needs and make plans for their future needs. Some of the services offered at the Outreach Office include heating and cooling assistance, food, medical, and housing assistance.

Ruth Ann was referred to the Outreach Office by Experience Works. Experience Works helps seniors, many with multiple

barriers to employment, obtain the training they need to find good jobs in their local communities. Originally named Green Thumb, Experience Works is a national, charitable, community-based organization

“One day when I was at the library, I bumped into an old friend,” said Ruth Ann. “She told me about the program. It sounded interesting. She had filled out an application and needed

someone who knew her, as a reference, to sign her application. I did - and I also picked up one for myself.”

A couple of months later, Eloise Mullins, Foothills' Estill County Outreach Coordinator, called Ruth Ann. Shortly after, she began volunteering at the Outreach Office.

Ruth Ann typically volunteered 18-20 hours every week at the Outreach Office as a receptionist. In December 2006 another volunteer position opened up in Powell County at Foothills' Housing Office. “There were already two volunteers at the Outreach Office so I decided I was needed more at the Powell County office,” said Ruth Ann.

Soon Ruth Ann began volunteering at the Housing Office. She became very knowledgeable of the Affordable Housing

and Weatherization programs. Foothills' Affordable Housing program assists low and moderate-income households purchase a home. Foothills' Weatherization program helps low-income families increase their homes' energy efficiency levels in order to reduce heating and cooling costs.

At the Housing Office, Ruth Ann answers the phone, helps people fill out assistance applications, files, and takes care of all the day-to-day office operations. Ruth Ann proved to be an extremely valuable asset to the organization. She was hired by Foothills on April 2, 2007 as an Office Assistant. “As an agency we often face limited time and resources to find enthusiastic and qualified volunteers like Ruth Ann,” said Jimmy Stone, Director of Weatherization & Housing Development. “We were thrilled we could hire her. She is a remarkable employee!”

“I just love working at Foothills,” said Ruth Ann. “I function so much better in a routine. My children are grown and have moved away. I'd lost contact with my friends and people had basically forgotten about me. I've always worked with the public so this position was perfect for me.”

She credits Experience Works for getting her involved and active in her community. “I feel like I'm doing something productive,” said Ruth Ann. “I really like all of the people I work with and feel good about helping others!”

## EKU Freshmen Give Back

Hundreds of new freshmen moved into the dorms, toured campus, and met new friends at Eastern Kentucky University on August 18<sup>th</sup>. But many of them chose to spend their Saturday afternoon - their first Saturday afternoon at ECU - volunteering for Foothills.

One of the many activities freshmen could participate in during their first week on campus included signing up to volunteer for the Freshman Service Project.

“The Freshman Service Project is an opportunity for the incoming freshman students to meet some new people and have some fun, all while making a difference in their new community,” said Amanda Hope, Assistant Director for Community Service and Student Engagement. “The project is voluntary so it’s great to see that so many students chose to spend their first Saturday at ‘college’ giving back to others.”

Three groups worked on a variety of projects in Madison County. In Berea, a

group painted the community room at the Berea Senior Citizens Center.

In Richmond, a group performed various tasks at Hager Drive. Hager Drive is an apartment complex owned by Foothills. Work performed included painting all of the doors, digging up existing landscaping, and replacing it with gravel.

At the Central Office, a group worked on projects for the Transportation program. They painted the transportation suite, re-organized the layout of the office suite and washed all of Foothills public transit buses - inside and out.

“We can’t thank Eastern Kentucky University enough for everything they did for us,” said Vicki Jozefowicz, Executive Director. “These young adults should be

applauded! They did an outstanding job. Contributions of our volunteers, like these, are invaluable and add exponentially to the success in achieving our mission.”

“I am so thankful for all of the Foothills staff who came in during their weekend to help support this project,” said Hope. “Everyone had a great time. Several of the students have already approached me about participating in more service projects for Foothills. I was amazed at how much work got done! The students really worked hard and we are proud of the results.”



*Volunteers at Hager Drive significantly improved the outside appearance of the apartment complex.*



*The ECU freshman class came together to help Foothills recently. ECU furnished all of the supplies for the project. Foothills hopes that this partnership can become an ECU Freshman Service Project Tradition.*



# The News in Brief...

This summer Kelly's Fruit Market was severely damaged when it was hit by a vehicle. They donated most of their produce and fruit to the Madison County Outreach Office. Foothills would like to thank Kelley's Fruit Market for their donation. It went to many people who needed it.

In July, Foothills was awarded four new grants from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati (FHLBank). These grants, totaling \$580,920, will provide home rehabilitation and new homes construction in Estill and Powell Counties. In Estill County, Foothills will be able to provide home rehab to six households and build four new houses. In Powell County, Foothills will provide home rehab to six households and build seven new houses. Foothills works with Citizens Guaranty Bank in Irvine and Whitaker Bank in Powell County to make this possible. Since inception in 1990, the FHLBank has contributed \$250 million toward the creation of over 40,000 units of lower-income housing.



Foothills' Mujeres Unidas (United Women), program celebrated its sixth year anniversary on July 27<sup>th</sup> by hosting a special luncheon and silent auction the Arlington Club at EKU. This year's guest speaker was Kathy Moats, who recently retired as director of Eastern Kentucky University's Small Business Development

Center. Richmond Mayor Connie Lawson also addressed the crowd. Sandra Añez Powell, Foothills' Migrant Outreach Coordinator, organized the event which successfully raised more than \$3,000 for the program.

Barbara Griec has been hired as Transportation Director. Ray Khatir, who previously filled that role, left Foothills to pursue an opportunity in Bowling Green. This summer, Netza Mullins, Healthcare for the Homeless Project Director, was awarded an \$8,700 grant by the Johnson & Johnson Institute to attend a Health Leadership Training at the Anderson School of Management in Los Angeles, C.A. Della Piersall, Foothills' Board Member, was also able to attend a portion of this training.

## Back To School Fun Day

On August 10<sup>th</sup> Foothills hosted its annual Back to School Fun Day. The event, organized by Betty Miller, Foothills' Homeless Coordinator, was held at the Betty Miller Community Center. This fun-filled day provided low-income families with school supplies. This year, more than 350 households received a goodie bag that contained items such as glue, scissors, paper, rulers, pencils, etc. The event included free food, a petting zoo, face painting, the WOW (Wellness on Wheels) Wagon and much more. Members from the Richmond fire department, health department and extension office helped provide information and entertainment.



### footnotes

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This month, Foothills began offering a new housing program titled - **The Samaritan Housing Program**. This program assists persons who are chronically homeless with a disabling condition who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Services available include rental assistance, case management, transportation, medical assistance, budget/credit classes, food assistance, heating/cooling assistance, utility assistance, educational assistance, GED preparation and referrals. This two year grant is a joint effort between Foothills, Bluegrass Community Action & Pennyriple Mental Health Mental Retardation. Funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Kentucky Housing Corporation, a total of 54 persons will be served by all three agencies.



Congressman Ben Chandler was in Winchester on August 7<sup>th</sup>. He stopped by the Generations Center to see the new bus he helped secure \$38,000 in funds for last year. “We are thrilled to have this bus,” said Julie Woosley, Center Director. “It allows us to provide essential services to so many of our seniors.” The bus is used to transport seniors to the center, to doctors’ appointments, shopping and special trips. Congressman Chandler said he was honored to be back at the center, where he has visited several times before. “I came to see the new bus,” said Congressman Chandler. “I’m pleased it’s working out for everyone.”

## Foothills Community Action Partnership

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