

Kluesener celebrates 40 years with CAP

Submitted

For 40 years, the Christian Appalachian Project has entrusted some very important first impressions to one person. Hers has been the voice on the other end of the phone when people call to ask about becoming a CAP volunteer. Hers has been the hand that has penned letters to the thousands of individuals who have offered to serve the people of Appalachia. And she has continued to demonstrate a unique and loving care and concern for the people of the region – a concern that has awed and inspired thousands of volunteers who have come to know her.

Kathy Kluesener recently celebrated 40 years at CAP. In her 40 years, she's participated in almost all of CAP's activities, whether that is within the camps, outreach, Christmas Baskets, medical transportation, or in her current capacity as Coordinator of Volunteer Recruitment. Kathy has touched the lives of thousand of individuals and has been integral in CAP's continuing success.

"It's gone by very, very fast," said Kathy. "For folks who ask me about it, I say if

somebody had asked me 40 years ago if I would make my home in Kentucky and still be with CAP, I didn't think that was my path in life. But I really feel that God had a major hand in it. It's definitely an honor and a privilege to still be here."

In 1971, Kathy first heard about CAP while serving as a youth counselor in Massachusetts. In the summer of 1972, she left her home in Mansfield, Massachusetts and traveled to Lancaster, Kentucky to work as a temporary volunteer at Cliffview Lodge on Herrington Lake, where Appalachian children were able to have a summer camp experience that their families otherwise would not be able to afford. Kathy returned to CAP the following summer hoping to again work at the summer camp. Overstuffed, Kathy was asked to go to Mount Vernon.

At the end of her summer in Mount Vernon, Kathy went home for a brief vacation. When she returned to CAP in late August she hoped to begin her permanent volunteer tenure in Mount Vernon. "I wanted to work in Mount Vernon because of the good

experience I had during the summer, but I was willing to go where I was needed," said Kathy. Her willingness to serve was, and remains a blessing to CAP and the community.

Kathy often shares that she felt "the call." The call that would enrich and change her life forever. "I think God calls us in many different ways and wants us to share the Gospel. A quote that means a great deal to me is, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words."

When Reverend Beiting searched for that Typist/Volunteer Coordinator in 1973, he was looking for much more. He needed a person who would be willing to echo Christ's call to come and follow Him. He was looking for someone who would be a reflection of love and concern. He was looking for Kathy Kluesener...and when he found her he found Grace in Action.

"I have been so blessed beyond words. CAP totally changed my life. Throughout my service as a volunteer I was also exploring what my vocation in life would be. I had so many wonderful mentors and will always be grateful for Reverend Beiting's unbelievable insight. I want to express what an honor it was to have known our founder Reverend Beiting. I tell people, he was the one who had the dream of beginning Christian Appalachian Project, and he's allowed each person he touched, whether they served two days or 40 years, to be a part of his vision - the mission of CAP. I hope and pray that the dream continues for a long time and everyone recognizes how important it is to have that gift of service. And to also recognize the many ways that God comes into our life each day because of it."



Kathy Kluesener recently celebrated 40 years at CAP.



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