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## Spring events at ADFAC

### ADFAC to celebrate "Fair Housing Month" in April

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Building on the foundation set by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the 1968 Act expanded protections from discrimination. One of the sections of the Act, Title VIII, concerns housing discrimination and is called the **Fair Housing Act**. Later amendments and acts further expanded rights to cover a broader range of people.

The premise of 'fair housing' is that all people have the right to choose where they live based on what they can afford. Discrimination occurs when landlords, real estate agents, lenders and other housing entities deny, restrict or impede housing to individuals or families based on race,



color, national origin, sex, religion, familial status and/or disability. Examples of illegal discrimination include refusing to rent or sell housing, making housing unavailable, setting different terms or conditions for the sale or rental of a house, refusing to make a mortgage loan, and setting different terms or conditions for a mortgage loan.

To raise awareness of our right to fair housing, April is nationally celebrated as 'Fair Housing Month.' Locally, ADFAC is participating by sponsoring a poster contest for 3rd and 4th graders at seven elementary schools

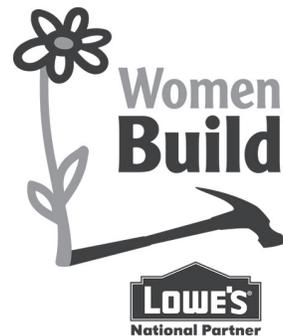
throughout the area. Affordable Housing Director Cindy Ross will speak at the schools and provide kids with age-appropriate brochures that explain what fair housing is all about.

"The right to fair housing is something that is close to ADFAC's heart," said Ross. "Whether you rent your home or are looking to purchase, *everyone* should have the opportunity to seek housing free of the threat of discrimination.

"When kids learn about their right to fair housing, they will be better able to recognize housing discrimination if it ever happens to them or their family."

### Affordable Housing Program to sponsor "Women Build" home

This spring, ADFAC's Affordable Housing Program is teaming up with Appalachian Habitat for Humanity to build a brand new home in Sunbright in rural Morgan County, Tennessee. The home will be part of Habitat's "Women Build" initiative. Sponsored by Lowe's, Women Build is a national program that encourages women to learn construction skills by helping out those in need.



The Sunbright Women Build will take place between May 3 - 16, 2009 and will coincide with National Women Build Week. The soon-to-be homeowner is a single mom who currently lives in Harriman, but grew up in Morgan County. The home will have 3 bedrooms and 1 bathroom.

ADFAC will help fund the construction of the home, and ADFAC's staff members, volunteers and friends will roll up their sleeves to participate in the building of the home.



*Serving the diverse charitable needs of rural Appalachia since 1987*

# ADFACts

Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties  
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## ADFAC sees increase in need for assistance

As the news about the economy continues to worsen, ADFAC's Social Services and Affordable Housing programs are fielding more requests for assistance than at any other time in ADFAC's 22-year history. In January alone, ADFAC received over 750 phone calls from local individuals seeking help; many requests are coming from people who have never needed to ask for help before.

"Since the beginning of 2009, 30% of the families seeking Social Services assistance are making first time requests or have not been helped in over three years," said Liz Herbes, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Director of ADFAC's Social Services Program.

Not only has the number of requests increased, but both programs have noted that in order to keep up with the rising cost of basic living, the amount of assistance needed has also risen.



"The economy is so hard on everyone right now -- but especially the low income families," said Connie

Ball, Services Coordinator for ADFAC's Affordable Housing Program.

"In the past, homeowners needing home repair assistance could afford a small repayment loan. Now, when people call to ask for help, the great majority are in desperate need but are not in a position to pay back anything."



Families requesting help from ADFAC are facing immediate crises such as eviction, foreclosure, utilities shutoff, hunger or hazardous living conditions. Job loss and the increased cost of living are commonly cited as reasons for the need for assistance. To address these needs, ADFAC provides limited, short-term assistance to help eligible families regain stability as they find ways to cope with the tough economic times.

As ADFAC works to meet the changing needs of local low-income families, community support is needed more than ever. If you would like to help ADFAC provide emergency assistance to those most affected by the weak economy, please consider making a contribution today.

## ADFAC bids farewell to long-time employee

After 11 years of dedicated service, ADFAC Special Programs Coordinator Jane Byars is retiring.

Jane started out at ADFAC by working the front desk at the Social Services office, but it wasn't long before Jane's job description grew to include coordinating the School Supplies and Warm Fuzzies programs.

The two programs flourished under Jane's direction and dedication. When Jane took the task of School Supplies coordinator, the program was serving around two hundred children each year. The program now serves

nearly 1,400 children each year! Similarly, under Jane's care, the Warm Fuzzies program grew from serving a few dozen teens each year to over 200 annually.



Jane Byars

Jane is the mother of five and has 4 (soon to be 5!) grandchildren and 4 cats.

"Jane's efforts have made the School Supplies and Warm Fuzzies programs some of ADFAC's most successful," said Liz Herbes, Social Services Program Director.

"We will all miss Jane very much and wish her the best."

## Homeowners enjoying clean water in rural Appalachia

Great progress has been made in the first 6 months of work under the USDA/Living Waters Household Water Well System grant through ADFAC's Affordable Housing Program. In that time, 8 treatment systems and 4 new water wells have been completed for families in the Buffalo Creek area on the border between Tennessee and Kentucky, near Eagon, TN.

The 8 treatment systems have been installed for a variety of family situations, including several instances of single mom with kids, elderly couples on fixed

income, and two where no water source was available for the house at all. In one instance, the well and treatment system was completed in December, and that family enjoyed their first Christmas celebration with running water in the home.

This project is a unique partnership between ADFAC, the USDA, Living Waters for the World (a Presbyterian Church ministry) and Rotary International. Funding for the sys-



tems are provided by these governmental, community and faith-based organizations (a total of \$80,000), with system installation conducted by volunteer labor from trained church and community partners. The local Oak Ridge Rotary Clubs, plus members of the Oak Ridge and Farragut First Presbyterian Churches, have provided many of the volunteers, as have churches from other parts of Tennessee and Ken-

tucky. Included in that mix is ADFAC's own Tim Myrick, a member of the ADFAC Board and the volunteer Project Manager for the ADFAC efforts on the project.

The USDA grant work continues through September of 2009, and we are anticipating the installation of several more wells and up to 10 more systems before this first project area is completed. We plan to submit another grant request to USDA in May, focused on the Tazewell, TN community.

## Membership donors recognized

*Many thanks to these individuals for their generous donations to the ADFAC Membership Drive. Contributions made to the 2009 Membership Drive will be listed in the Summer Newsletter.*

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