



**APPALACHIAN
COMMUNITY FUND**

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appalachiancommunityfund.org

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APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND ★ CHANGE, NOT CHARITY

APPALACTIONS

FARMERS' MARKET SPROUTS NEW ALLIANCES IN KENTUCKY

Tribby Vice wipes his brow after the morning milking, thinking of the jobs ahead in this typical 16-hour day: cutting hayfields, weeding cabbage, and tending tobacco. His Fleming County farm has supported five generations of his family—three still live on the farm. But keeping this farm productive for more generations takes more than hot hours in the field. It will take new ways of protecting the ecosystem, growing new markets, and ending farmers' dependency on tobacco—the cash crop that has been the mainstay of Kentucky's rural economy.



TRIBBY VICE ON HIS FARM
IN FLEMING COUNTY, KY

Ironically, although Kentucky is a leading farm state, with the second highest number of farms per capita in the U.S., it ranks 43rd in consuming local products. As Tribby Vice explains: "We don't feed our own people. We grow commodities for large corporations. We compete with growers from all over the world. In that system, farmers aren't really making any money."

While gritty, urban Louisville and the rolling hills of Fleming County seem far apart, both communities are plagued by poverty. Average farm income in Kentucky is \$12,000. Average income in low-income neighborhoods of Louisville is slightly over \$8,000. The Community Farm Alliance (CFA) helps farmers like Tribby Vice market their produce while simultaneously serving the needs of the people of Louisville. As a result, they're doing more than supporting a small farm economy: they're sustaining a local food economy.

Today, in the Portland neighborhood of Louisville, Reda Clayton and Lita Goodrich run a popular café and gourmet take-out called Eve's Sweet Revenge. A successful African-American female entrepreneur, Reda's detailed business and publicity plan relies on farmers like Tribby for the fresh, delicious produce that keeps growing her customer base for Eve's Sweet Revenge, while building a taste for Kentucky produce.

For more than 15 years, CFA has helped Kentucky's small farm economy through initiatives like this. In 2000, when most states were using tobacco settlement monies to offset general budget losses, CFA convinced state legislators to use

the monies to help small farmers most affected by lost tobacco sales. Today Kentucky has more than 240 new projects benefiting small farms.

By building local food markets that benefit urban and rural communities, CFA wants to shift the balance of power to give ordinary folks a voice in their local economy. The job won't be easy. Many influential state policymakers promote corporate-dominated models that undermine this ground-up approach. The Governor envisions an economic future for Kentucky based on high-tech biotechnology firms. Last year, legislators proposed a bill relieving corporations like Tyson



FARMERS' MARKET PRODUCE CAPTION CAN GO IN HERE
IF YOU WANT A CAPTION FOR THIS IMAGE

and ConAgra of any liability for environmental damage caused by their contract operations. The challenges are many, but CFA will continue its efforts to preserve viable family farms.



REDA CLAYTON AT HER LOUISVILLE
CAFE, EVE'S SWEET REVENGE

CFA has been funded by the Appalachian Community Fund for more than a decade. In the last two years, this funding has been leveraged by \$30,000 grants underwritten by the Ford Foundation through the Southern Funding Collaborative, a strategic partnership between ACF, the Southern Partners Fund and the Fund for Southern Communities.



Farmers and city residents are working together to change the way business is done in Louisville. Farmers needed a place to market their products, West Louisville residents needed fresh, high-quality food. The answer? The Portland Farmers' Market in Louisville. It's creating new opportunities for economic development in Louisville, and the Portland Market has created a model for farmers' markets springing up all over Kentucky.



**THE APPALACHIA COMMUNITY FUND IS
DEDICATED TO PROVIDING FUNDING TO COMMUNITY AND
GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CENTRAL APPALACHIAN
REGION. SINCE 1987, ACF HAS DISTRIBUTED
MORE THAN \$3.5 MILLION DOLLARS TO GROUPS
WORKING FOR CHANGE, NOT CHARITY IN APPALACHIA.**

www.appalachiancommunityfund.org

KENTUCKY FEEDS US ALL

Driving through Kentucky after visiting folks at the Community Farm Alliance (CFA), I was struck again by the beauty and diversity of Central Appalachia's rich farmlands, rugged rockscapes, lush valleys, foothills and softly outlined mountains. The communities are as diverse as their land. You find cities of notable size and bustling small towns, as well as depressed towns with deserted homes, farms, mines and workplaces. Nestled in the hills are tiny communities of 30 to 500 people. Deeper in the mountain hollers live isolated families. These communities house people from a patchwork of ethnic and racial backgrounds. The work of CFA speaks to the diversity, the challenge, and the hope of Appalachia. It represents what ACF is all about.

CFA connects rural farmers with urban residents, feeding both communities. Farmers gain regular local markets and a fair price for their produce. City folks eat local, healthy, affordable fresh food. Both groups side step the exploitations of corporate, global agribusiness. CFA folks saw a need and found creative local solutions, using Appalachia's diversity to forge new alliances between country and city. Thanks to CFA, people live and work on land they love while preserving that land and building a new model of economic justice. CFA is just one example of the way ACF-supported groups benefit people, families, and communities even beyond the boundaries of their circumscribed areas of work.

WORKING FOR LOCAL ECONOMIES

Locally-based economic development is essential to strengthening Appalachia, as job opportunities become more scarce. ACF is funding projects throughout the region to build these local economies. From the Eastern Kentucky Childcare Coalition making local, home-based child care provision a viable economic option for people in Kentucky to the Jubilee Project in Sneedville, Tennessee, where small farmers have formed a cooperative to market local products, groups throughout Appalachia are creating sustainable economies based on local needs.

For example, many in Kentucky are fighting a constitutional amendment that prohibits civil rights for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Such an amendment threatens everyone. A rising chorus, including Julian Bond and Mrs. Coretta King, cries out that this attempt to limit people's rights is part of ongoing right wing efforts to limit civil and human rights for people of color, in fact for all people. Thus, a victory in Kentucky for the rights of lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender people will ripple out to join other models of social and economic justice – like the models created by the Community Farm Alliance.

I know the difficulties we face as funders, donors, as an organization and as individuals. The issues sometimes seem overwhelming. We ask ourselves: When will real change come? It is coming. Appalachia is a big, diverse place with diverse issues, but in the broad range of work that ACF supports, in the models we create, thousands of people in her towns, cities, and hollers are reaping benefits from what we do. What you do.

The ACF staff and board have created a new version of our newsletter to celebrate these models and to strengthen the powerful, creative links between organizations, donors, friends, and allies. We don't work alone – the impact of our efforts, our meetings and events, travels far beyond our horizons, across the hills and hollers of Appalachia to those everywhere working for a better world. Thank you all for all that you do.

--Gaye Evans
Executive Director



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE
WORK FOR LGBT RIGHTS
IN KENTUCKY,
CONTACT 502-893-1330
OR VISIT THE WEB-SITE AT
noamendmentky.com.



WHAT GIVING GIVES ME

"I was impressed with the Appalachian Community Fund when I heard about it 10 years ago. It goes back to the whole idea of Change, Not Charity," says Rich Stonestreet, one of the co-chairs of ACF's Drive for Change.

Rich has been an ACF donor ever since. This year he volunteered to help raise \$95,000 from individual donors. He's been talking to his friends and colleagues for the last few months to help ACF reach its goal and increase funding to social change organizations in Appalachia.

Thanks to Rich and co-chairs in Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee, ACF is well on its way to reaching that goal.

Rich grew up in Wheeling, West Virginia and spent 25 years working for teachers' unions, most of that time in West Virginia. With deep Appalachian roots – his father was "more West Virginian than American" and his mother was born in Appalachian Ohio – Rich has a deep understanding of the needs of this region.

"Years ago, I heard West Virginia referred to as the Afghanistan of the US: poor beyond belief, inaccessible and isolated. So community organizing here and working on long-term change are especially important. Appalachia has been left behind in many ways, largely because the balance of power here is so uneven."

Rich has seen how a gift to ACF gives people the resources to address that uneven balance, to create their own solutions, to create change.

"I've been a student of organizations and people who are trying to create change my entire adult life. A common mistake is to treat power as something you can just give away to people with needs, to treat it like a charity. The reason I'm a donor, and the reason I'm asking my friends to donate, is that ACF does such a good job of creating situations for people to empower themselves – that's where real change happens."

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR 2004 GIFT FOR CHANGE?

With the help of donors like you, grassroots groups are doing incredible work to make real, lasting change in Appalachia. The Appalachian Community Fund is able to provide resources to groups because of the generous financial contributions of individual donors. If you haven't given to the Drive for Change this year, please send a gift today in the enclosed envelope, or give online at www.appalachiancommunityfund.org. Together, we are changing the face of Appalachia.

The deadline for proposals for ACF's 2004-05 General Fund Grant Cycle is Monday, November 1. To receive proposal guidelines, contact the ACF office or download them from the web-site at www.appalachiancommunityfund.org



ACF's first board president, Vicki Quatmann, died suddenly on June 16th in Bolivia of a heart attack. Her leadership in fundraising and her commitment to community organizing helped grow ACF into a strong organization. She's pictured here (right) celebrating a legacy of change at ACF's 15th Anniversary Celebration in 2002 with ACF's first director, Kim Klein.