

# Illinois Group Receives Award For Work With Estill Middle

The A Lasting World, Inc is a non-profit organization from Illinois who have gone to great lengths to provide wonderful educational opportunities to the students of the Estill County Middle School Youth Services Center that recently received the Bridges Over Barriers from the Family Resource and Youth Services Center of Kentucky Coalition (FRYSCKY). The award was presented to A Lasting World, Inc representative Wen and Jerry Marcec at the FRYSCY State Conference at the Lexington Convention Center on November 15, 2013.

For the last seven (7) years this organization has provided a week long residential summer camp to rising 7th graders from ECMS. Students attending this camp are given the opportunity to receive a full week of environmental science related experiences that they talk about for years. Students spend a week at the camp. Activity appropriate clothing and shoes are provided to each student attending to make sure that each student has everything that he/she needs during the camp. All meals and activities are complementary as well. Students have the opportunity to explore caves, go rappelling and a wide range of other activities. Students attending the camp

also receive a wide arrange of gifts and surprises all donated by individual sponsors recruited by camp director, Wen Marc and her staff, for each camper. Each year they receive homemade quilts for their beds made by various women's organizations in Illinois.

Parents are also heavily involved in the camp. The A Lasting World organization hosts an annual meeting each year before the camp providing parents and their students an opportunity to meet the camp directors, ask questions about the camp and then they sit down and enjoy a meal together. Then again on the final night of the camp a special presentation is done for the parents, which is a review of all the activities that the students have participated in during the week. Here too the all are encouraged to attend and share a meal.

Then they offer several reunion events throughout each year encouraging all former camp participants and their families to come together and participate in various community service projects such as tree plantings and etc.

The contributions of this organization to the ECMS/YSC don't stop with the camp. Each year they conduct toy drives and bring a large truck load of toys down every fall

to be distributed to needy families during the holidays. Furthermore, two years ago this organization

partnered with Barnes and Noble Book stores to do a book drive for the students of ECMS. This book

drive provided over 2,000 free books for students to take home. That was three books per child.



Left to right: Andy Simon of Cathedral Domain, Michael Flynn ECMS/YSC Director, Jerry Marc and Wen Marc, A Lasting World Directors, and Cindy Sigmon of Cathedral Domain. Photo & story, courtesy of Mike Flynn, ECMS YSC



Straight from the North Pole to you, we're pleased to share some "best wishes" from our area children to their favorite holiday celebrity.

## Dear Santa,

My name is Lyndsi Powell and I have been a good girl this year. I would like you to bring me a Barbie Dream House, Barbie Car, and a new Barbie doll. I would also like a Flutterby, a pink pogo stick, and a Sophia game for my LeapPad. My brother has been good, too. Can you bring him a fire truck, a blue shirt, and play telephone because he likes to chew Mommy's phone. I want you to bring my cat Tom a blue toy and my puppy Rosie a blue ball. I'll leave you some snacks

because you might get hungry. See you soon!

**P: Earl & Jamie Powell**

## Dear Santa,

I will be one, the day after Christmas. All I want for Christmas is to see my Nanny and Papaw and my Aunt Roo-Roo.

**Brittney & Christopher Miranda**

## Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy this year. Mommy and Daddy are very proud of me. All I want for Christmas this year is a new guitar. Thank you in advance.

**R.J. Tipton, Parents: Ronnie & Donnie Tipton**

## Dear Santa Claus,

I have been a good girl this year! I would like a bicycle, a Furby, and some Minnie Mouse dress-up toys! Some more Barbie Doll clothes would be nice too and a spy watch! I hope that you can bring my sister's and brother some toys too! I also hope that my two Papaws have a very good Christmas in Heaven! Merry Christmas Santa!

**Ava Hale, Age 5 Mrs. Katie Parker's room P: Shaun and Kim Hale**

# Patriots Finish Up Strong Going Into Christmas Break

The Patriots finished up their pre-Christmas schedule this week with a bang, with both the 6th and 8th grade teams going unbeaten in all three games played last week; which included wins over conference foes Madison Middle and Farristown (Berea). They also concluded the week on Friday night with wins over Morgan County.

The sixth grade, coached by Brian Covey and Seth Martin, go into Christmas break with a record of 16-3. "The sixth grade team is re-

ally hitting their stride right now with pressure defense being their strength," remarked Coach Bonny. Their conference record stands at 4-2.

The seventh grade team, coached by Mark Chaney, is continuing to work very hard and are consistently playing teams tough, they head into Christmas break with a record of 5-14.

The eighth grade team, coached by Jim Bonny, John Robinson, Jeff Barnett, Don Brown and Shaun Chaney, go into Christmas with a

record of 16-4, and a conference record of 5-1 with their only loss coming at the hands of Foley on the road by a score of 33-31. According to Coach Bonny, "This team is really working hard day in and day out, they are really playing great as a unit." Bonny would go on to say, "Our goal is simple, that is to win our conference tournament, we will settle for nothing less."

The Estill Patriots will resume play Monday, January 6 as they travel to Morgan County.

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## An Old Fashion Christmas

Give me an old fashion Christmas with the ground covered with snow. I can see the dear old farm house, with smoke drifting from the chimney, blowing in the winter breeze. I can see the old barns and empty fields, dusted with fresh winter snow.

Give me an old fashion Christmas, with family and friends dropping by, and laughter filling the air. Oh! It's Christmas once again; Dad and little ones going out into the fields to cut an evergreen tree; maybe it'll be a spruce, or a nice fresh pine. Any of these will be fine.

While Mom spends most of her time in the kitchen, making old fashion fruit cake, pumpkin pies, freshly baked apple sauce cake in her special dish, cranberry sauce; the smell of molasses and cinnamon and roasted goose. Oh! What a Christmas feast!

The smell fills the whole house. There is no place I'd rather be than "home for Christmas!" What a happy, joyful, peaceful time. We all decorated the tree with homemade ornaments . . . they were so beautiful . . . made with Mom's own loving hands with lots of love.

Everything was so bright, silver and gold, stockings hung by the chimney; light up each room and windows.

A slice of pumpkin pie, cookies and milk left for Santa; I remember candy canes, mistletoe and the smell of fresh pine. These are treasures of Christmas that fill our memory forever; and all the love and kindness that people showed back then.

Holly wreaths hung on the doors, Christmas carols we sang, homemade eggnog; Oh! What old fashion Christmas holiday bliss. We set a traditional Christmas. Always give a gift of love that comes from the heart. Treasure the moment, so we'll never be apart, because we'll be in each other's heart.

Each year we try to find our way back home to celebrate Christmas like we had when we were children, way back then with our family and friends.

Give me, Lord, an old fashion Christmas once again. Don't let no one be alone or cold or hungry. Give a gift of love. Merry Christmas and God bless. Make everyone's Christmas special.

*"In memory of" BassLee and Larry Richardson. We miss you even more on a holiday. I know you'll be there in my heart.*

**Author Frieda Holliman**