



ThorpeWood Quarterly

A Mountain Retreat for Youth
Winter/Spring 2008

Seasons of Growth Going Strong

Many of you have expressed interest in the progress of our *Seasons of Growth* series. These gender-responsive ThorpeWood programs are offered in partnership with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) in Frederick to help teenage girls who have been arrested or otherwise involved with the local juvenile justice system. The girls are brought to ThorpeWood once a week for 8 weeks, meeting for 2 ½ hours each session, including a meal together.

The third program in the series, called *A Woman's Way*, began in January with nine young women ranging in age from 14 –18 years. This program focuses on issues of self-assessment and awareness, problem solving, decision-making, self care, healthy relationships, life goals and accountability. Besides discussion on these topics over the course of the program, each girl is hand-constructing a book and filling it with reflections on our discussions. Rather than being strictly autobiographical (a frightening task for some), these reflections are being written from the point of view of a female character each girl has created from a woman who has impacted her life.

You might ask, “Are we helping?” The answer, according to DJS staff is emphatically, “Yes!” and they are pleased to report that out of home placements (at group or foster homes, detention centers or rehabilitation facilities) are at an all-time low, along with incidents of reoffense. On the positive side, continued contact with counselors and therapists has increased ten-fold. The director of the Frederick office, Singy Golden, tells us that these programs are not only helping the girls directly, but are helping DJS employees to be more effective in their work with our girls.



This year's Spring Fundraising Dinner will be held on March 29. Proceeds will benefit *Seasons of Growth*, ThorpeWood's partnership with the Department of Juvenile Services in Frederick. *Seasons of Growth* is a series of unique gender responsive programs, designed to help teenage girls make positive changes in their lives. The focus of our fall program was “surviving and growing through hard times.” The girls studied how animals and plants survive the hardships of winter and modified those strategies for use in their lives. They then found examples of the strategies in nature at ThorpeWood, and photographed, painted, sketched, or wrote about them. This picture represents *Find Joy Where You Are* to one of our girls. It and other beautiful examples of the girls' work, matted and framed, will be sold at a silent auction the evening of the dinner.

ThorpeWood's Storytime for Pre-schoolers Resumes at a New Time on a New Day!



Storytime will now start at 10:00am on the third Wednesday of each month. Join us for fun activities and stories focusing on ThorpeWood's unique ecosystems. Children will learn from hands-on experiences and pre-literacy activities designed for 2-5 year olds. Come have an adventure with your child while nurturing a sense of stewardship and pride in our local environment. Reservations are required, \$5 per child.

Please see our calendar of events and activities on our website at www.thorpewood.org for more information, including monthly themes.

ThorpeWood Quarterly

ThorpeWood, Inc.
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Fax (301) 271-2060
Web: www.thorpewood.org
Email: info@thorpewood.org

ThorpeWood is a mountain retreat for at-risk youth.

We are situated in a secluded hollow of Catoctin Mountain, a beautiful setting that includes forests, mountain meadows, pastures, wetlands, and native trout streams.

Our mission is to provide year-round, exceptional customized programs that are intended to help change the lives of the young people we serve.

ThorpeWood Quarterly Moving to Cyberspace!

This will be ThorpeWood's last print version of the *ThorpeWood Quarterly*. Our next issue will be sent via email and posted on our website, www.thorpewood.org.

In order to keep in touch with ThorpeWood's news and events **please send your name and email address to: info@thorpewood.org, subject: "E-News"**.

Your address will remain absolutely private and will not be distributed to any outside organizations.

You may unsubscribe at any time.

Thank You!

A Note from our President

Winter is one of my favorite seasons – a view that I know is not shared by all – so with this newsletter we at ThorpeWood send out our very warmest greetings to each of you and want to remind you that spring is just around the corner.

Eight years ago this month, ThorpeWood was launched with the opening of its lodge. Over the past eight years, ThorpeWood and its volunteers have been dedicated to youth, education, and the community as evidenced in the following ways:

- at-risk youth programs
- native plantscaping and design
- an organic heirloom vegetable garden
- Maryland's first hybrid American chestnut orchard
- a unique venue for corporate retreats and weddings
- a region-wide community center
- an environmental education learning center
- watershed and stream study programs,
- a green building design model
- and on and on...

Let's fast-forward to ThorpeWood today – with a more focused mission.

ThorpeWood Programs

First and foremost, ThorpeWood is a mountain retreat delivering exceptional programs to the "at-risk" youth population of our partner organizations in Washington, DC, Baltimore, and Frederick County. Our program model's core elements are:

- **small** numbers of students - less than 24 at a time
- creation and delivery of **customized** programs tied to school's goals & objectives
- **longevity** - working with the same students for a minimum of 24 months
- **assessments** – measuring efficacy of interventions

Annually ThorpeWood's programs will profoundly and significantly affect 150 young lives.

Commercial Events

As a means of providing income for ThorpeWood's programs, we rent the main lodge for corporate meetings, retreats, wedding ceremonies and receptions, dinners, and other special events. Additionally, we host special fundraising events to support ThorpeWood programs.

Community Events & Community Programs

The public, ThorpeWood's community both neighboring and regional, is invited to free community events such as our *Holiday Open House* and *Community Dinners at ThorpeWood*. Additionally, we offer monthly community programs such as *Storytime* and periodic outdoor family programs, such as, *Night Froggin'* and others listed on our website, www.thorpewood.org. These programs are fee-based.

A hardy welcome to those of you who are new Friends of ThorpeWood - we are so glad that you have joined our community of supporters of our at-risk youth programs. To those renewing Friends of ThorpeWood, we continue to be ever grateful for your individual contributions, both financially and through volunteerism. We could not accomplish what we do without you!!!

Sincerely,



Sam Castleman
President
ThorpeWood, Inc.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner at ThorpeWood?

Sunday, April 6, 2008: 4:00pm – 8:00pm



We are thrilled to once again welcome W. H. Martin back to ThorpeWood for an enlightening presentation and talk on the Timber Rattlesnake! Known as the East Coasts' leading expert on the rattlesnake, W. H. Martin loves to share his experiences and his snakes with audiences! If you are unfamiliar with this reptile, or if you or friends are terrified of snakes...this is a great time to learn what you REALLY should or should not be afraid of! Come and learn how to avoid them, what to do when you come upon one in the woods, where they hibernate and for how long, and many more amazing facts! This is a wonderful opportunity to become better informed about the life of a rattlesnake here on Catoctin Mountain!

As always, all are welcome to our community dinners. Your admission is a dish to share! Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, April 2, 301-271-2823 or info@thorpewood.org. When calling please indicate the number of people coming with you and the food you will bring to share. Please prepare enough for your family plus 6 people. Please also bring your recipe along with your dish!!!!

Seasons of Growth Spring Benefit Dinner

Saturday, March 29th, 2008

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Please join us for our Second Annual Spring Fund Raising Dinner to benefit our *Seasons of Growth* partnership with the Department of Juvenile Services in Frederick.

Area chefs, led by chef/owner M.L. Carroll of Canapés, will present an elegant five course meal, served in the Chestnut Room of ThorpeWood's timber frame lodge. In addition to the wonderful food, there will be live music and a silent auction.

Seating is limited to 100 guests, so please reserve your seat (or your table for 8 friends) today by completing the form below and mailing it with a check made payable to ThorpeWood, Inc., 12805-A Mink Farm Road, Thurmont, MD 21788. Cost \$100 per person, or \$750 for one table of eight. (You may also pay online via PayPal at www.thorpewood.org.) BYOB; Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

RSVP & Payment due no later than March 25th.



YES! I would like to reserve my seat/table at the Second Annual Spring Benefit Dinner in support of ThorpeWood's *Seasons of Growth* Program.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Total # of guests in your party: _____ Total # of vegetarians in your party: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Total # of vegans in your party: _____

ThorpeWood's House Concert Series a Hit!

They came from Philadelphia and Washington D.C., as well as from Frederick County. They came to hear good music, and to visit ThorpeWood, known as a gorgeous place to spend an afternoon. What they discovered was a community of like-minded people enjoying great food, extraordinary entertainment, and a glorious setting with wonderful acoustics. Most importantly, they discovered ThorpeWood's mission to provide exceptional customized programs for at-risk youth.

The House Concert Series at ThorpeWood has produced two singer-songwriter events, starting in January with guitarist and singer Cliff Eberhardt, whose current album *The High Above and the Down Below*, was named by USA Today as the #5 folk album in the nation.



Cliff Eberhardt

His bluesy, powerful, gritty voice and accomplished guitar playing gave easy command to his folk songs as the crowd of 85 listened intently. In addition to the caliber of his music, Cliff is a funny, engaging performer, which added immensely to the afternoon's enjoyment.

In February, it was our privilege to present Christine Lavin, who the night before had performed at the Birchmere in Northern Virginia to a sell-out crowd of 500. Beloved by her fans around the world, Christine's name helped fill ThorpeWood with 130 guests. Lavin's lyrics are funny, smart and sometimes political, but always engagingly addressing the human condition. The room swelled with laughter and sudden tears as she performed, giving her listeners a great deal to think about. Considering the food provided by Canapé's, the music, and the extraordinarily warm and comfortable room, everyone agreed that the afternoon was a phenomenal value! Many in the audience stayed after the performance to learn more about ThorpeWood's at-risk youth programs and ThorpeWood as a venue for weddings and corporate events. Others expressed interest in becoming Friends of ThorpeWood and volunteers, and in exploring the possibility of sponsoring future performers.



Christine Lavin



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News Flash!

ThorpeWood is pleased to announce our new partnership with *Canapé's Catering*, who is now our exclusive & amazing caterer!

www.canapescatering.com