



S.KY AHEC REPORT



Danville's Jim and Lorie Gies aren't just any AHEC housing hosts. They've opened their doors as well as their hearts to students, and consider themselves part of their journeys. Here, they attended the graduation ceremony of three of their former students, all of whom graduated from UK's physical therapy doctoral program. From left are Lorie, Dustin Jones, Kayla Allen, Jason Spears, and Jim.

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More than just a place to stay

One of AHEC's best-kept secrets is the work we do to arrange housing for students who do rotations in rural Kentucky.

Clinical rotations typically last four weeks, but can be as many as 12 weeks long. Students often request to be housed for the rotation. It's the Southern AHEC's job to match the student with one of its 35 hosts located throughout the region.

Typically, a host is a person or family whose home has an extra bedroom or an empty basement. They get paid \$80 per week for University of Kentucky students, or \$70 per week for University of Louisville students.

So far in 2011, 59 students have been housed in 26 Southern AHEC

housing sites.

Though hosts aren't required to do anything other than provide a safe environment, many get to know their students, dine with them, and help them get familiar with their communities.

Jim and Lorie Gies of Danville have grown close to many of their students. In fact, they recently attended the graduation ceremony of three of them on the UK campus (see above photo). They also plan to attend a former student's wedding in October.


"They are a joy to have and it makes our hearts feel so good to be a part of their journey," Lorie said.

"Jim and Lorie Gies are a great example of what the AHEC housing program is all about," said Gerry

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By the numbers

July, August, September 2011

-  Health careers / education participants: 4557
-  Continuing Medical Education attendees: 900
-  Community education: 1324
-  Medical Library services: 106
-  Student rotations: 86
-  AD/Special project participants: 35

Visit us on the web:
www.soahec.org

Camps in Full Swing!



Three of our summer camps/camp partnerships were held this quarter, including Camp 75 in Berea, a weeklong overnight camp attended by 30 students, pictured at top. At right are campers from HC3, a regional camp held in July in Boyle County attended by 16 students this year. The Southern AHEC also provided the health careers curriculum for the Rogers Scholars camp in Somerset.



AHEC in Action

Along with preceptors and other partners, several members of the Southern KY AHEC staff volunteered to help with the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic in September in Somerset, where 681 patients were served.

RAM provides free medical care to people in remote areas around the world. Pictured are volunteers performing some of the 1,231 procedures completed during the weekend.



- Students get to know community

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Musterman, clinical education coordinator. They graciously welcome students and make them feel right at home. Just like many other housing hosts, the Gies have made lifelong friends with many of the students who have stayed in their home."

Those connections are in the spirit of the AHEC mission to promote rural healthcare.

The more students get to know the communities where they are rotating, the more likely they are to consider practicing there in the long term. The immediate economic pay-off (roughly \$25,000 per year in rent alone for our region) is a welcomed and seldom discussed AHEC benefit to rural areas.



Connie Brock, of Somerset, has been an AHEC housing host since 2000.

At A Glance:

- **UK students pay \$80.00/week to housing hosts; U of L students pay \$70.00/week.**
- **The Southern AHEC will arrange housing for approximately 80 students in a typical year.**
- **If you are interested in becoming a housing host please contact the Clinical Education Coordinator, Gerry Musterman at the AHEC office at 1-800-711-0291 or gmusterman@soahec.org**

AHEC programs go **SMOKE-FREE**

The Southern KY AHEC is showing more support for Kentucky's smoke-free movement. In addition to expanding our no-smoking zones farther away from the front doors of our conference venues, we have joined the Smoke-Free Kentucky Coalition, whose mission is the completion of comprehensive laws at the local and state level eliminating secondhand smoke in all public and work places, including restaurants and bars.

As most public health and healthcare professionals know, secondhand smoke is a public health hazard. Nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke in public places or at work significantly increase their risk of developing heart disease, lung cancer, and respiratory illnesses. Communities in the Southern AHEC area that have passed smoke-free laws include Madison County, and the cities of Danville and London.

Center Director Dwain Harris participated in a smoke-free Kentucky workshop in September, and he would like to see more of the So. AHEC's communities go smoke-free.

"Part of the AHEC mission is the promotion of community health," he said. "The smoke-free initiative presents us with a great opportunity to make a positive change in our communities. When a restaurant or town goes smoke-free, not only is there an immediate health improvement, there's less acceptance, prevalence and visibility of cigarettes. The result is less advertising for an unhealthy habit, and a better chance that young people will not make the choice to start smoking."

The So. AHEC will continue to seek ways to add its voice to those in favor of less smoke and better health.


Southern Kentucky
AHEC
AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER


AHEC programs are smoke free.
Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of
all building entrances.

*For information on how to quit smoking
contact the AHEC office.
www.soahec.org*

Smoke Free

upcoming events

 **October 20, 2011** Cancer Survivor Dinner — David Williams Southeastern KY AG & Expo Complex, Corbin, KY

 **November 1, 2011** Meaningful Use & the KHIE Connection Partnering to Improve Patient Health Outcomes — Center for Rural Development—Somerset, KY

 **November 11, 2011** University of Kentucky AHEC State Meeting - Lexington, KY

 **November 18, 2011** Health Occupations Today Expo — Center for Rural Development, Somerset, KY

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