



Appalachia Service Project
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MISSION & VISION

Appalachia Service Project (ASP), is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair in Central Appalachia. Our vision is that substandard housing will be eradicated and everyone who comes into contact with this ministry will be transformed.

QUICK FACTS

- Founded in 1969 by Rev. Glenn “Tex” Evans to make homes warmer, safer & drier for families in need in Central Appalachia
- Since ASP’s founding, 393,486 volunteers have repaired 17,866 families’ homes
- ASP serves 30+ communities in 5 states in Central Appalachia (Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia & West Virginia)
- About 16,000 volunteers participate with ASP each year
- ASP is only able to assist 1 out of every 10 families who apply for home repairs
- ASP provides short-term mission opportunities to youth, college-aged, and adult volunteers year-round
- Last year, 16,231 volunteers repaired 493 families’ homes & built 28 replacement homes
- ASP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization & donations to ASP are tax-deductible
- ASP meets all 20 Standards for Charity Accountability with the BBB Wise Giving Alliance

OVERVIEW

ASP is more than a building program—it’s a relationship ministry. Volunteers spend time interacting with the family they’ve been assigned to serve. Often they forge friendships that impact them for the rest of their lives, and learn lessons that enrich their faith and build character for the rest of their lives. For many, this experience is the first step towards a lifelong vocation of caring for and serving others.

PROGRAMS

Home repairs performed by ASP volunteers take place from the ground up to the roof, and everywhere in-between. Typical repairs include: repairing roofs, building room additions, providing wheelchair ramps, securing foundations, digging drainage ditches, constructing porches and steps, installing insulation and siding, and weatherizing homes.

Summer Program

ASP is open all summer for volunteers of all ages (14 and up). Youth, college, and adult volunteer groups come to Central Appalachian Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia to make homes warmer, safer, and drier. Volunteers return home stronger, wiser, and closer to God.

When volunteers arrive for their week of service, they are housed in one of ASP's base camps or "summer centers"—often a school or community center leased for the summer to put them closer to Appalachia's remote communities. ASP staff provide guidance on the overall direction of the home repair projects. All tools and construction materials are provided, as well as three meals a day and plenty of opportunities for worship and reflection.

Year-Round Program

ASP is open all year to groups of volunteers. Volunteers come for a few days, a week or more. They stay in climate-controlled ASP centers with bunk beds and hearty meals. Whether volunteers have construction experience or not, they are matched with jobs that suit their skills.

College Service Project

College Service Project inspires students to lives of Christian service and leadership through home repair for low-income families in Central Appalachia and back in their home communities. College Service Project (CSP) provides young adults with a chance to continue and share the transformational experience they've had in Appalachia with their surrounding collegiate community.

College Service Project is a student-led, campus based organization. Each chapter is nationally affiliated with Appalachia Service Project, and follows ASP's model for home repair projects in their local community.

Students involved with CSP seek home repair applications from families in their local community, select homes and projects to be completed, recruit volunteers to help with the projects, raise funds to underwrite the projects, and complete the repairs. CSP chapters also commit to volunteering in ASP's Year-Round Program during the fall, winter or spring, help recruit potential summer staff applicants, and spread the word about volunteer opportunities with ASP.

New Build Appalachia

New Build Appalachia began as an effort to help low-income families in the Dry Creek and Cash Hollow communities of Washington County, Tennessee, who lost their homes to massive flooding in August 2012. In one year, ASP was able to leverage public and private funding to build replacement homes for 25 families devastated by the Dry Creek flood.

In December 2014, ASP received \$300,000 in new grant funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission that will be leveraged with more than \$1 million in private contributions to construct 33 new homes for low-income residents in nine East Tennessee counties whose homes are beyond repair.

Long-Term Disaster Recovery

ASP has some experience with helping communities rebuild after disasters. In 2012, ASP built 25 homes for families who had lost their homes to massive flooding in Washington County, Tennessee. Those efforts evolved into ASP's New Build Appalachia program.

In 2016, ASP launched a multi-year project to help rebuild homes in Rainelle, West Virginia, and nearby Richwood, West Virginia, for families whose homes were destroyed by flooding. ASP has already completed the first 17 of 60 homes that will be built for low-income families.

ASP has also committed to assist in the long-term recovery of low-income families devastated by the wildfires in Sevier County, Tennessee, in November 2016. This disaster killed 14 people, destroyed over 2,800 buildings, and eventually burned over 17,000 acres of land in Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) and the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church have jointly announced a partnership to assist in the long-term recovery of low-income families devastated by the wildfires. Most of these families have been denied Federal disaster recovery loan funding due to lack of adequate income and are unable to secure other resources for rebuilding. These homeowners often fall through the cracks of long-term recovery, and will be the focus of efforts by ASP and the Holston Conference. This partnership will work in concert with the Mountain Tough Recovery Team and other agencies engaged in the recovery effort.