



Appalachia Service Project
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Appalachia Service Project dedicates two more homes for wildfire victims in Sevier County, Tennessee.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (October 3, 2017)—On Monday, October 9, 2017 at 10 a.m. Appalachia Service Project (ASP) will dedicate two newly-constructed homes in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. ASP is building new homes as a part of their disaster recovery efforts in Sevier County after wildfires swept through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, and Pigeon Forge in November of 2016. The fire killed 14 people and destroyed over 2,800 buildings, eventually burning over 17,000 acres of land.

These are the third and fourth homes to be completed as a part of ASP's 25-home commitment to help low-income residents of Sevier County recover after the wildfires. The first went to Glenna Ogle who lost her home, vehicle, pets and belongings in the fire. The second went to Ernest Ogle down the road, who was just able to celebrate his 75th birthday in his new home.

The third home will be presented Monday to Ernest's older sister, Trula Mae Bible, an 84-year-old blind woman. Ernest and Trula Mae grew up in the house that has since burnt, and now they will reside as neighbors in newly constructed homes by ASP. The fourth recipient is Carroll McKinney who lost both his home and his business in the fire. These homes were constructed by ASP volunteers from Grace Meadows Church, Ball Camp Baptist Church of Knoxville, and Midwest Men's Missions.

ASP has already begun construction on three additional homes and necessary permits are being drawn for five more, with plans to have a total of 12 homes in various stages of construction within the next month. ASP is currently seeking skilled local volunteers to join in the efforts of these projects, you may contact TNSevier@asphome.org for volunteering information.

Partners for the 25 homes ASP has committed to building in the next year include the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church, Mullican Flooring, Volunteer East Tennessee, Mullican Flooring, Cherokee Partners, AmeriCorps, the American Red Cross of East Tennessee, the Dollywood Foundation, Tennessee Housing Development Authority, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, and the Mountain Tough Recovery Team.

Mountain Tough Recovery Team continues to be the lead recovery organization, accepting applications from families seeking site cleanup, home repairs, new home construction and individualized recovery assistance related to the Sevier County, TN wildfires in November 2016. To apply, visit Mountain Tough's website (www.mountaintough.org) and complete the

pre-application or call the Mountain Tough office at 865-436-8112. Volunteers and donors interested in helping with site cleanup, replacement home construction and home furnishings may visit <http://www.mountaintough.org/i-want-to-help/> for details on how they can get involved.

ASP has 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. And in 2016, ASP launched a multi-year project to help rebuild homes in Greenbrier County and surrounding areas for families whose homes were destroyed by flooding. ASP has already completed their first 54 homes that will be built for low-income families in Greenbrier County and surrounding area in West Virginia.

HOME DEDICATION DETAILS

Trula Mae Bible's Home Dedication
Monday, October 9, 2017 at 10 a.m.
734 Ellis Ogle Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

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ABOUT APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

Appalachia Service Project (ASP), is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. Since 1969, ASP volunteers have been making homes warmer, safer and drier for families in need in Central Appalachia and providing life-transforming experiences for everyone involved. In recent years ASP has expanded its outreach to include building new homes for low-income families whose homes were destroyed by fire or flooding and others whose homes are beyond repair. This year ASP will have over 16,000 volunteers working in 5 different Central Appalachia states helping over 600 families with home repairs and new construction.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit ASP's Newsroom (<http://asphome.org/newsroom>) for a fact sheet about Appalachia Service Project, downloadable press releases, photos, and other information.