



Appalachia Service Project
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Appalachia Service Project builds three new homes in fire recovery efforts in Sevier County, Tennessee.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (September 24, 2018)—On October 2, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Appalachia Service Project (ASP) will hold a dedication ceremony to honor the completion of three new homes in Sevier County, Tennessee. These homes will be presented to Sevier County residents who were impacted by the wildfires in the Great Smoky Mountains back in November of 2016.

These homes are a part of ASP's 25-home commitment to help rebuild the area after the disaster, and with these three additional homes, has completed 14 of the 25 homes.

"It is so wonderful to be able to get these families back into homes after this wildfire. We are blessed to get to know them over this process and learn their stories. We are excited about our work here in Sevier County, and are excited to keep going," states ASP New Build Tennessee Director, Will Crumley.

These homes will be presented to the Leiva, Huskey, and Jackson families. Evelin Leiva is a single mother who was a renter at the time of the wildfires and lost everything. ASP is making her a first-time homeowner on land she purchased in Sevierville. Her daughter, Khristy, is a local elementary school student while Evelin runs her own cabin cleaning business. Her home was funded in part by Affordable Housing Program and Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Members of the church even traveled to Sevierville to help with the construction of the home, and plan to attend the dedication service. When asked how long she would live in her home if we rebuilt it for her, Evelin replied, "All the time!"

Sue and Darrell Huskey lost the home they had built themselves back in 1984. Sue and Darrell were both born in Sevier County and raised their family here. Darrell was a lifelong contractor and built many homes and cabins in the area before he retired. In recognition of Darrell's service to the building industry in Sevier County, 84 Lumber donated many supplies to Darrell to help rebuild his home. Additional funders include the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati and the Tennessee Housing Development Agency.

Rebecca Jackson, along with her daughter, lost everything in the wildfires in Gatlinburg. Rebecca works at the local Children's Hospital, and shares her home with her daughter, Kendall, and her brand-new grandson. Rebecca suffered many hardships after the fires and hopes to get back to normal with her new home. Rebecca's home was also funded by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati and the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, and construction was assisted by the AmeriCorps NCCC Coast 4 Team.

Partners for the 25 homes ASP has committed to building in Sevier County include Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church, Mullican Flooring, Volunteer East Tennessee, AmeriCorps, American Red Cross of East Tennessee, Gatlinburg Fire, the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Keep Sevier Beautiful, Dollywood Foundation, Tennessee Housing Development Agency, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati and its Affordable Housing Program, Sugarlands Distilling Company, and Mountain Tough Recovery Team.

ASP has experience 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. In 2016, ASP launched a multi-year project to help rebuild homes in Greenbrier County, West Virginia and surrounding areas for families whose homes were destroyed by flooding. ASP has completed 68 homes for low-income families in West Virginia and still continue to build. Learn more about ASP's Disaster Recovery Program at www.ASPhome.org/DisasterRecovery.

HOME DEDICATION DETAILS

Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Hosted at Evelin Leiva's Home to dedicate three new homes

2238 Green Acres Circle

Sevierville, TN 37876

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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 15,000 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.