



Appalachia Service Project
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Appalachia Service Project announces house recipients of the fourth annual Race to Build event.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (March 22, 2019)—Appalachia Service Project (ASP) will hold its fourth annual Race to Build event during the Food City 500 Race Weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway, April 5-7, 2019 to build three homes for local Tri-Cities families.

ASP will construct these three new homes for veteran families living in the Tri-Cities area. Students from Iowa State University, University of Nebraska, and the home team, East Tennessee State University will compete over three days to complete the fastest, safest, and most accurate construction of these new homes.

Following their completion, the homes will be presented to Bill Ferguson, Jeffrey and Dessie King, and Larry and Donice Stipe.

These three veterans and their families are currently experiencing housing instability and will receive their ASP homes mortgage free. ASP selects these recipients through a careful home review process and are very excited to give back to the local community to provide stable housing to these families during this event.

These three veterans and their families are currently experiencing housing instability, and the ASP home they will receive comes mortgage free. ASP selects these recipients through a careful home review process and are very excited to give back to the local community to provide stable housing to these families during this event.

Bill Ferguson is a Johnson City native who served in the Navy 1985-1999 before returning to the Tri-Cities area. In an interview he stated, “Since I got out of the military in ‘99 and up until 4 years ago, I’ve been homeless three times. But each time, God has provided. I’m currently living with a fellow veteran who’s letting me share his house.” He is excited to be in his own permanent home after this event. Ferguson is skilled in carpentry and plans to assist ASP volunteers in the construction of his new home.

Larry Stipe joined the Army immediately after graduating high school, and following his service continued his education on the GI Bill. Following a rocky living situation, Larry found himself in staying at the Kingsport Salvation Army homeless shelter. There he met his wife Donice, and together they look forward to having a home that is their own. Donice is already planning the garden in their new yard.

Finally, Jeffrey and Dessie King are both Washington County natives, enthusiastic about owning their first home together. Jeffrey joined the Army as soon as he came of age in the late 1970s, and since his service has made a living in construction and rental property maintenance. A wrist injury makes things

tight for the family, but with their new ASP home there will be plenty of space to make memories with their three children and four grandchildren.

ASP Race to Build is made possible through partnerships with the Home Depot Foundation, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Bristol Motor Speedway, State Farm, Stanley Black&Decker, DEWALT, Royal Building Products, Holston Foundation, Sahn Family Foundation, Edward and Wanda Jordan Family Foundation, Grand Home Furnishings, and Food City.

This event will be held outside of the Bristol Motor Speedway track, between the Purple and the Orange bridges. Construction will begin at 8:45 a.m. on Friday, April 5th, and will conclude at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 7th with a closing ceremony and honoring of the families before the Food City 500 race begins.

The three homes will receive floors, walls, trusses, roofing, siding and windows at the track during the event. Later they will be moved to their final locations for completion by ASP staff and local partners. When final construction is complete there will be a home dedication ceremony.

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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. For additional information about this event, please visit ASPhome.org/RacetoBuild