

Appalachia Service Project 4523 Bristol Highway Johnson City, TN 37601 (423) 854-8800 www.ASPhome.org

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three new homes completed in flood recovery efforts in West Virginia through Appalachia Service Project and partners—West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters and World Renew.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (February 26, 2018)—Over the next 3 weeks, Appalachia Service Project (ASP), in coordination with West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and World Renew, will be participating in dedication ceremonies for 3 families of Greenbrier, Clay and Nicholas Counties, West Virginia.

Each of these homes were constructed as a part of ASP's Rebuilding Rainelle program to provide new homes for families in the area after the flooding in 2016. "It is an honor to have such great partners in the area who can make such efforts possible," states ASP CEO, Walter Crouch.

There will be 3 separate dedications over the next few weeks. The first will be a Last Nail Ceremony for Samantha Cox, Jason Grubb, their 3-year old son, and newborn baby girl, this Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at 401 Kanawha Avenue, Rainelle, West Virginia. This home was completed in great partnership with World Renew, who provided a substantial portion of the funding for the home and has also sent teams of volunteers each of the past four weeks to frame walls, build the porches, install sheetrock, paint, lay flooring, and install the trim. Additionally, West Virginia VOAD partnered to assist in the case work and client management, and ASP managed the materials and overall construction. Since last year, the Long-Term Recovery Committee and other partner organizations have provided furniture, some personal items, and even temporary housing in a Rainelle apartment until this home was completed.

The dedication in Clay County will be held Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. at 167 Giles Lane, Maysel, West Virginia for Miranda and Carlos Salisbury and their two children. Primary partners on this home were West Virginia VOAD, who helped to compile and process the case work and client information, and the West Virginia University Foundation in Morgantown which funded the home. ASP managed the materials and construction, utilizing volunteers and local contractors. This is ASP's first and only new home built to date in Clay County.

Finally, the dedication in Nicholas County will be held Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at 68 Third Street, Richwood, West Virginia for Evelina Marlowe. Again, West Virginia VOAD partnered for the case and client management, and ASP took care of the materials and

construction. The house was framed just before Thanksgiving by Iowa State's Appalachia Service Project Campus Chapter, and then completed with the help of additional volunteer groups and local contractors. The property is part of the subdivision named "Faith Village", on the site of the old hospital in Richwood, which West Virginia VOAD and Neighbors Loving Neighbors worked with the city to secure for the future new homes of flood survivors. ASP worked alongside West Virginia VOAD and Neighbors Loving Neighbors to build five other new homes in Faith Village which were completed and dedicated last summer. Notably, ASP pulled the first residential building permit issued in the town of Richwood in more than fifty years.

Appalachia Service Project has been building new homes since 2012 when they responded to the flooding in Dry Creek, Tennessee. Recently, ASP has extended its New Build program to include disaster recovery efforts. 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 the first 60 homes that will be built for low-income families in Greenbrier County and the surrounding area in West Virginia. In 2017, ASP began its disaster response efforts 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. ASP has committed to the construction of 25 new homes in this effort, 7 of which have been completed.

### **HOME DEDICATION DETAILS**

Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m. Samantha Cox and Jason Grubb 401 Kanawha Avenue, Rainelle, West Virginia 25962

Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. Miranda and Carlos Salisbury 167 Giles Lane, Maysel, West Virginia 25133

Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Evelina Marlowe 68 Third Street, Richwood, West Virginia 26261

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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**

Walter B. Crouch, ASP President/CEO (865) 368-9380 cell/text Press@ASPhome.org

Dave Kelley, ASP Chief Advancement Officer (423) 607-1156 cell/text Press@ASPhome.org

## **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.