



Appalachia Service Project  
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[www.ASPhome.org](http://www.ASPhome.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Appalachia Service Project dedicates three new homes for low-income families in Bristol, Tennessee.**

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (December 22, 2017)—On Friday, December 29, 2017 at 2 p.m., Appalachia Service Project (ASP) will be holding dedication ceremonies for 3 families of the Tri-Cities area. Each of these homes were constructed as a part of ASP's New Build Appalachia program to provide new homes for families in the area.

"We are thrilled to have 3 homes completed so these families can start the New Year fresh in a new home," states ASP CEO, Walter Crouch.

The dedication will be held at Johnny and Gwen Laughlin's home at 508 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Bristol. The Laughlin's have resided in a 30-foot camper for the past 5 years on a rented campground. ASP is honored to present this home to Johnny, a disabled veteran, and his wife this year. Johnny and Gwen's home was framed by Solid Rock Carpenters, and additional construction was led by ASP, with the help of The Well Campus Ministry of East Tennessee State University and Coca Cola of Bristol.

Also at this dedication, homes will be presented to Amy Morrell and Leah Dowell, who each had homes built during the Race to Build event at the Bristol Motor Speedway's Spring 2017 Race. Both Amy and Leah are single mothers and qualified first-time home owners. Amy's home was built by the ASP Campus Chapter at Virginia Tech, Iowa State University, Bread of Life, Johnson City Otter Soccer Team, Munsey Memorial UMC Youth, Gerald Malcolm and Clyde Monday, and friends and family of Amy. Leah's home was built by students of the University of Tennessee, By His Blood Ministries, First Baptist Church of Bristol, Beta Club, Gerald Malcom and Clyde Monday, and friends and family of Leah.

Each of these homes received funding from the FHLB of Cincinnati, as well as additional donations by Crystal Lake UMC of Illinois and the incredible supporters of Appalachia Service Project.

In 2012, ASP built 25 homes for families who had lost their homes to massive flooding in Washington County, Tennessee. Since that time ASP's New Build Program has expanded to serve low-income residents in the Tri-Cities area by building new homes for homeowners beyond the scope of ASP's Home Repair program. This is the third home ASP has completed in the county, and the organization hopes to complete more in the years to come.

Recently, ASP has extended its New Build program to include disaster recovery after the Greenbrier, West Virginia floods and the Sevier County, Tennessee wildfires. 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 54 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**

Friday, December 29, 2017 at 2 p.m.  
508 11th Street  
Bristol, TN 37620

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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.