



Appalachia Service Project
4523 Bristol Highway
Johnson City, TN 37601
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www.ASPHome.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Appalachia Service Project to dedicate 5 new homes in the Tri-Cities following Race to Build event at Bristol Motor Speedway.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (July 3, 2019)—Appalachia Service Project (ASP) will dedicate five new homes in the Tri-Cities area on Wednesday, July 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Three of these homes were constructed during the ASP Race to Build event held at Bristol Motor Speedway this April. Students from Iowa State University, University of Nebraska, and East Tennessee State University competed over three days to complete the fastest, safest, and most accurate construction of these new homes. The homes were completely dried in at the track, then transported to their final locations and completed by ASP staff and volunteers, and are now ready to be dedicated. The homes were built for three veterans in our community—Bill Ferguson, Jeffrey and Dessie King, and Larry Stipe. ASP is proud to dedicate these homes in the spirit of the Fourth of July.

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 a permanent home of his own. Ferguson, who is skilled in carpentry, assisted 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 staying at the Kingsport Salvation Army homeless shelter, but soon he will be moving into his own home.

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.

Outside of the annual Race to Build event, ASP’s Tri-Cities New Build program constructs homes for other families in need in our community. On July 10, two additional homes will be dedicated to James Kelsey and Jason Edwards.

James Kelsey, age 62, has lived in his current home all his life. A roof leak led to substantial damage to the existing home that could not be mitigated via repairs. Kelsey cooks 60-70hours per week at Brookdale, and walks about three miles to work every day. He cared for his mother until she passed away, and currently cares for and shares his home with a friend suffering from melanoma. ASP is proud to dedicate a home to Kelsey who has given so much to his community.

Jason Edwards lives with his fiancé and two teen boys, but after their home was damaged in a fire, it could not be repaired. Edwards meets the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati's definition of homeless as the home does not meet National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards. This new home will be a fresh start for Edwards and his growing family.

These homes would not be possible without the incredible support from so many partners, including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Home Depot Foundation, Bristol Motor Speedway, State Farm, City of Johnson City, City of Bristol, Stanley Black&Decker, DEWALT, Braswell Family Farms, Royal Building Products, Holston Conference Foundation, Sahm Family Foundation, the Edward and Wanda Jordan Family Foundation, Grand Home Furnishings, Mullican Flooring, Food City, Iowa State University, University of Nebraska, and the home team, East Tennessee State University.

HOME DEDICATION DETAILS

Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

108 East 10th Avenue
Johnson City, TN 37601

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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.