



4523 Bristol Highway

Johnson City, TN 37601

(423) 854-8800

Congressman visits ASP worksite—1 of 1

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Contact: Linda Honea, communications coordinator
Office: 800-289-4254, ext. 214; or 423-854-4424
Cell: 423-773-8793 Email: lhonea@ASPHome.org

Congressman Davis visits ASP home repair site

Johnson City, Tenn.—Appalachia Service Project welcomed Congressman David Davis to a Carter County worksite during Davis' recent visit home.

ASP Executive Director Susan Crow and Hank Hefner, center director for ASP's Carter County Summer Center at Little Milligan Elementary School, hosted Davis' tour of some of ASP's home repair efforts in northeast Tennessee. "I am glad to know about this amazing program, and to see firsthand how these volunteers build relationships while lending vital hands where needed most," Davis said, noting that ASP's regional efforts are headquartered here in Johnson City.

Using volunteer labor, ASP provides FREE home repair for low-income clients during the eight-week Home Repair Ministries Summer Program underway now. Center Director Hefner is one of 110 mostly college-age young adults recruited nationally by ASP and then trained to manage the 25 Summer Centers currently hosting volunteer teams in 25 different communities throughout Central Appalachian Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

An estimated 13,000 high school-age volunteers and their accompanying adults are volunteering in ASP's summer home repair outreach, traveling from churches and schools across the nation to repair about 400 homes this summer. Each volunteer has studied poverty issues, Appalachian history and culture, the meaning of service to others, and basic construction techniques during ASP's process of preparation over the winter and spring. After this preparation, these volunteers are now getting to know the families they serve while repairing or replacing floors, foundations, porches, plumbing, electrical systems, doors, windows, roofing, and other projects. They also build wheelchair ramps and weatherize homes. Several room additions are in progress, and some homes are receiving first-time indoor plumbing and electricity or safe upgrades.

Founded in 1969, Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that fosters human development by addressing the housing needs of Central Appalachia. Based in Johnson City, Tenn., ASP is at work this summer in nearby Carter and Hancock counties as well as Morgan and Scott counties in Tennessee, and the Virginia counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, and Wise plus numerous counties in Kentucky and West Virginia.

Local volunteers in Tennessee's Carter, Sullivan, and Washington counties are working on similar projects through ASP's Good Neighbors home repair outreach. These volunteers work on more flexible schedules, serving for a day or more without being away from home overnight. To find out how to help, visit www.ASPHome.org.

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