



the Front Porch

Transforming Lives



Thank you for your generous gifts at the end of 2009 — the good news is we met and received the special matching gift of \$50,000! However, the economy took its toll ... and overall funding for 2009 was still short by nearly \$135,000.

HOWEVER, we are moving ahead to open a record 27 summer centers this year for our Youth program. So far, we have an additional 1,400 volunteers scheduled for summer 2010 — that's a 9.4% increase over 2009. We are thrilled to host so many more volunteers, but it means we need MORE resources, MORE supplies, and MORE materials.

Can you give a gift now to help us get ready? With your partnership, we can help MORE families than ever in 2010. THANK YOU

Volunteers for Summer Youth Program



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Can you volunteer? Can you give?

Severe winter weather in Appalachia has put more families than ever at risk! Your help as a volunteer or financial supporter can make a HUGE difference now.



SEVERE WEATHER FOR 2009-2010

This Appalachian winter has been both colder and snowier than any in the last decade! This is true all across the United States, yet the colder, snowier weather here in the mountains of Central Appalachia spells **B-I-G T-R-O-U-B-L-E** for the 60,000+ families who live either without running water, electricity or an adequate source of heat.

Last spring, we helped a woman whose daughter died in January from overexposure to the cold. They had been living in a dilapidated barn without heat, running water or electricity. Years ago, two elderly brothers died from the freezing cold before we could help. This past December, there were several counties in rural Virginia that were actually without power more days than they had it ... our entire region has just experienced below freezing temperatures for 11 days straight! We need to reach as many families as possible right now so they don't have to go any longer without heat ...

- ✓ Can you give a week of your time and labor?
- ✓ Can you come help for a weekend?
- ✓ Can you give a special gift?

Please call 1-866-998-3907 to give to ASP or email volunteers@ASPHome.org if you are interested in volunteering.

2010 Theme:

EYES ON THE PRIZE: RACING TO SERVE

*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize?
Run in such a way that you may obtain it. — I Corinthians 9:24*

These photos and stories are from our 2009 Summer of Service — thank you for making all of this and much more possible. And please be praying about how God would have you serve the needs of the poor in 2010.



ASP saved me!

Minnie Arnold, Breathitt County, KY

Last winter when it rained outside, it also rained inside the home Minnie Arnold shared with her 38-year old mentally challenged son. Her roof and floors had many leaks and holes from water damage. The house had no insulation and it was freezing cold during the winter. The electrical wiring was so shoddy, it had caused a fire in the past. We made all these repairs (and a few more!) this past summer and now she is excited — “ASP has saved me... I hope other people can benefit from ASP like I have!” Thanks to your help, she is now able to stay in her home rather than moving to a nursing home.

Six boys in one room

Jesse & Rhonda Birchfield, Campbell County, TN

The Birchfields had 4 children of their own when they adopted 4 more belonging to a family member who could no longer care for them ... that meant 8 children — plus the two of them — living in a three-bedroom mobile home ... all six boys lived in a single 140 square foot room. They had to have a new bedroom or the family would be split apart. They also needed a safe second exit out the back — all they had was a door that opened out with a 3-foot drop to the ground. Thanks to many hardworking volunteers, the boys now have another bedroom PLUS a safe second exit, new underpinning and insulation to keep everyone much warmer this winter!

Our baby needs to be warm!

Kyle and Katrina Bryson, Logan County, WV

Kyle and Katrina just wanted a warm home for their 1-year old baby girl, Kendra. But their mobile home leaked when it rained and there was no insulation in the floors. In addition, their bedroom floor was caving in. After ASP replaced the roof and floors, insulated and built a second safe exit, their home is definitely warmer, safer, and drier for baby Kendra.

Ms. Jacky took care of everyone else before herself ... until ASP

Jackalene Davies, Buchanan County, VA

Even though her water supply was severely limited, “Ms. Jacky” as she is known to everyone, let her neighbors hook up to her supply line ... even when it resulted in getting water through only one faucet for her entire house. She has done most of her own home repairs, but did not know how to put in an adequate foundation, insulate or hang up siding. Her bedroom was cold and unstable with a gap between the wall and ceiling through which you could see some sky — obviously this let in the rain and there was significant water damage too. But after ASP came to help, her home is now warmer, safer and drier — with insulation and new siding all around, and a fully functioning bathroom where ALL of the faucets work!

With you on our team, we can help even more people like this in 2010.

Please join us in the RACE TO SERVE as many families as possible!

Investing in Families in Central Appalachia.

Thank you to everyone who gave a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one since October 19, 2009. In Memory and In Honor donations offer a meaningful way to support Appalachia Service Project and, at the same time, extend condolences, congratulations or other greetings to family and friends. Upon receipt of your gift, we will send an acknowledgment to you and to the family/friends you designate. The amount will not be disclosed. In addition, you will have your donation mentioned in *The Front Porch* and/or on our web site at www.ASPhome.org.

We gratefully acknowledge the following friends of ASP who have offered gifts to honor someone special or as tributes to loved ones who have passed on.

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It is now possible to sign up for an automatic Electronic Funds Transfer donation to Appalachia Service Project. You select the amount and we will deduct that amount from your bank account or credit card each month. See back of enclosed insert to sign up.



BUY ME A BIRTHDAY PRESENT, PLEASE

*Blogpost by Ben Thoma, longtime ASP Volunteer
Reprinted with permission*

I'm turning 30 this year, and I've always been a bit annoyed by the question "What do you want for your birthday this year?" Perhaps "annoyed" is a bit harsh, but I've just never been comfortable asking people to get me things.



Ben with Norma Dean (long-time ASP volunteer who is now with the Lord)

But this year is different. For the first time since I was young enough to ask for Legos, I actually do know what I want this year, and I'm asking anyone and everyone I can to get me a birthday present — including you.

I'm very blessed to look back at 30 and feel fulfilled by my life thus far. I am married to my beautiful, best friend, we just bought our first home, I enjoy my career path... I have no material needs in this world. So, what birthday present could I possibly ask for?

Hammers! 30 of them.

That's right, hammers. I want you to buy hammers for my birthday. Not for me, but for Appalachia Service Project (ASP). For more than one third of my life I have been in some way involved with ASP (volunteer, staff member, group leader, etc.) No other organization has done more to affect the person I have become. No other organization I know does more good for everyone involved in its home repair mission.

Why Hammers?

Hammers are the iconic tool of home repair. Ever heard "If I Had a Hammer"? They also happen to cost only \$17, and I think we can get enough people to donate so that we can buy 30 hammers for ASP — 30 hammers for my 30th birthday. That's only \$510 amongst all of you — totally doable. So, let's do it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have a creative idea like Ben's to raise support for ASP, please contact Lyssa Perry at 423.854.4422 or lyssa.perry@asphome.org. Over \$1,130 came in for Ben's birthday - that's twice what he expected and an incredible blessing to the families here in Appalachia. Ben, we appreciate you and applaud your generous heart — you ROCK!

Mark your calendar for these Events/Specialty Weekends

2010 Tri-Cities TN Blitz Days

Mother's Day: May 8
Earth Day: April 24

Fall 2010 Specialty Weekend

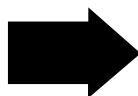
Women's Weekend
November 11 - 14, 2010
Guyan Valley, WV

If you have a day, a few days, a weekend or even longer, please contact Volunteer Relations Coordinator,Carolynn Bailey (423-854-4405 or Carolynn.Bailey@ASPhome.org).

3,347 FAMILIES APPLIED FOR HELP LAST SUMMER AND ARE STILL WAITING

for urgent home repairs — some of which include first-time plumbing, water and electrical service. Please help us as we RACE TO SERVE as many families as possible in 2010 — with your gift, we can accomplish even more!

**Please use this form
to help today...**



*** HERE'S MY GIFT TO HELP ***

YES, Susan — I will do my part to help more struggling families during these hard times. Here is my most generous gift to help families like Jonathan's home and get ready for the 15,000 volunteers coming to help this summer:

\$75 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

Here is my monthly CARPENTER CLUB gift of \$ _____

Please bill my credit card. (see reverse)

I'd like to join the Carpenter's Club and give \$ _____ monthly

I'd like to become an ASP Ambassador and share ASP with my church

Please contact me about volunteer service:
 year-round summer

Jay and Susan Kelly
194 S. Magnolia Street
Johnson City, TN 37601

I'd like to receive information about Appalachia Service Project by e-mail.
My e-mail address is please print: _____@_____

423 Bristol Hwy
Johnson City, TN
37601-2837

\$1,000: cost to ASP to build indoor bathroom in 1990

\$2,500: cost to ASP to build indoor bathroom in 2010



4523 Bristol Highway
Johnson City, TN 37601
Phone: 423.854.8800
Fax: 423.854.9771
www.ASPhome.org

Appalachia Service Project is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that fosters human development by addressing the housing needs of Central Appalachia.

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President & CEO

Lyssa Hunter Perry
Editor

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