



*warmer. safer. drier.®*



***“The repairs ASP has done on our home will impact us greatly!”***

Tim and Renee have lived in Carter County for more than 26 years. They are raising five grandchildren, as their daughter struggles with addiction, and a nephew. The children range in age from one to seventeen. Like many grandparents in Appalachia, Tim and Renee weren’t prepared financially or physically to take in all of these children full-time, but they knew it was the best thing for them and their futures.

Tim is a disabled veteran, serving eight years in the Air Force. Money has always been tight but made even tighter when taking in six children to feed, clothe, and provide with medical care. Their home is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath, mobile home that desperately needed insulation, a new roof, and repair to the flooring, but beyond that they needed at least one room addition to make space for their all of the children.

ASP had worked previously on their home when doctors told Tim that he would need double knee replacements. The only way to get into their home required many stairs, so providing a ramp to their home was life changing.



➤➤ According to Tim, ***“getting in and out of the house is 10 times easier now.”*** ◀◀

Thankfully, ASP volunteers were able to serve this sweet family again during our summer program. A new roof was installed, and the entire home was hugged with new insulation and siding. The floors in the kitchen and laundry area were soft and in danger of falling through, so volunteers repaired the subfloor and installed floor coverings, so that Tim and Renee and the children would be safe. Also completed was some drywall repair throughout the home, along with some new paint.

The family could not be happier with the repairs! Renee was most excited to share that, ***“I can host my grandchildren’s birthday parties at the house now, having a space that I am proud to have people in. All these volunteers come and give their time, and we are so appreciative.”***

*(story continues on page 2)*



## Walter's Corner



Dear Friends,

**Merry Christmas!** May the joy of the holidays inspire hope and peace in your hearts through God's love and presence, demonstrated in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior. It really is the most wonderful time of the year as we celebrate the greatest gift ever given!

Christmas—the birth of Christ, the Incarnation, the act of God taking human form—reminds me of the body of Christ, the Church. Incarnation, God becoming human flesh, continues to take place through the coming of the Spirit into the life of the believer. What an honor it is to be the hands and feet of Christ at work in the world!!

Each year, it is my privilege to watch Christ at work through ASP partners and volunteers like you. In a way, every time I step onto an ASP worksite, it's like Christmas for me. The joy I feel then is just like the feeling I have now, during this magical season. **That's why ASP is a grace-based ministry: our work is God loving families in need at no cost—it's a gift—a gift made possible by your volunteer service and generous support.** Be assured, God works in and through you every time you support ASP and the families of Central Appalachia.

**Incarnation!** God with us, through you!

As we celebrate Christmas, let us keep in mind those who are struggling to stay warm, those who may be homeless, those who are living in substandard conditions.

ASP is currently engaged in rebuild and recovery efforts in eastern Kentucky, an area hit in July with the most devastating flooding ever seen in this region. Thousands of homes need repair or replacement—and ASP has committed to be a part of the recovery process until all has been restored.

We feel a special obligation to respond, as this region has been our home for five decades. It's the place where our founder, Glenn "Tex" Evans, and those first 50 volunteers served at ASP's beginning. Sadly, there are many hollers where ASP volunteers have worked in recent years that have been completely devastated. **We need your help.** Volunteers are needed during Summer 2023, where we will serve the 5-6 hardest hit counties. Framing crews are needed right now to help frame new homes for families that lost theirs to the flood. Donations are needed to buy materials and supplies.

**ASP simply cannot do this without you.**

Ask yourself ... **How can you be the body of Christ, bringing God's love to those who are suffering, this Christmas season and in the New Year?**

**Incarnation!** God with them, through you!

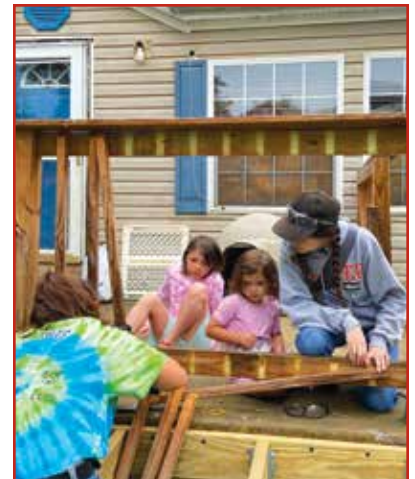
Blessings to you and yours this Christmas,  
—Walter B. Crouch, President/CEO

(story continued from cover)

## **A home that they can be proud to have people in.**

Thank you for making that possible for this family. There is still work to be done at Tim and Renee's home and we are eager to begin building them the new room addition they need. That will take more volunteers and more resources.

If you'd like to volunteer to help this family—or many others waiting for home repair or replacement—you can sign up to volunteer at [ASPhome.org/Year-Round](https://ASPhome.org/Year-Round).



# *I found myself in Appalachia*

Discoveries while in service with Appalachia Service Project

—Volunteer testimony by Steve Graham, Chapel Hill NC

I found myself in Appalachia, a place where creation has partitioned the land with leafy walls of mountain forest. In those nooks and crannies can be found people with strong roots going back many generations.

In that place I made some discoveries while in service with Appalachia Service Project.

I discovered that when I disconnect myself from my own selfishness I can appreciate that although I am going through my own late in life transformation, I am not the only one experiencing change.

I discovered youth who have the wisdom and courage to disconnect from our bewildering and caustic culture to experience the discomfort and joy of service. I have renewed faith in the future.

I discovered parents working alongside their children and observing their littles transforming into young adults. I am reminded of my own joy and melancholy.

I discovered young adults who have dedicated this portion of their lives to fulfilling their desire to spend the summer in service. I admire the sacrifice and dedication.

I discovered old friends reunited and celebrating bonds first forged decades ago in service. I am reminded that those friendships are what allows us to escape the prisons of our solitudes.

I discovered people living in profound poverty, but through family, faith and their deep roots, finding a way to persevere. In my ignorance and arrogance I often wondered why these people don't leave to find better opportunities. It is through service I appreciate that the improved material circumstances might not compensate for the spiritual damage of disconnecting themselves from their roots.

I discovered that there are good people with whom I have little in common, but through service I can perceive the good and mitigate the not-so-good. Perhaps if that spirit of mutual understanding and respect was more prevalent in our society our polity would be less fissiparous.

I found myself in Appalachia. And through the lens of service, I found myself not just in a physical place but with a transformed state of mind.

# *Summer 2022 impact*

You have impacted so many lives this summer by offering help and hope to Central Appalachians in need.

**Thank you!**



**8,271 families** are praying for friends like you to serve with ASP

**Register now**  
[ASPhome.org/Summer2023](https://ASPhome.org/Summer2023)

# Surprising science of giving

We've all heard "it's more blessed to give than to receive," but did you know there's scientific data to back it up?

Over the past 20 years experts have found that giving creates a 'warm glow' of dopamine in the body; lighting up the same parts of the brain as eating dessert or receiving money.

While we naturally turn to generosity during the holidays, here are some unexpected ways you can give (and experience an endorphin boost) this season:

1. **Pass along a family heirloom.** Instead of buying something new or willing it later, give a prized family possession this year—when you can surprise the recipient and enjoy their reaction.
2. **Teach what you know.** Some of the best gifts can't be wrapped. Pass down your skill of knitting, carpentry, or a beloved family recipe with the techniques that can't be written down only demonstrated.
3. **Give compassion.** Does your loved one value a specific cause or group? Donate in their honor.
4. **Include a personalized note.** No matter how old we get, a genuine compliment goes a long way. Write down how you feel about your loved one. Recall a special memory you share or list words that remind you of them. What have they taught you?
5. **Think long-term.** Giving charitable gifts to an organization you love makes a huge difference, but have you ever thought about leaving a gift in your will to Appalachia Service Project? This type of plan-ahead generosity will not only leave an impact for future generations but fill your heart with joy and satisfaction today too.

Turns out scientific research just proves what Proverbs 11:25 has been saying all along,  
*"A generous person will prosper;  
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."*  
May you experience that special 'warm glow'  
of generosity all season long.



## Give ASP swag this Christmas!

Check out the great merchandise at [ASPstore.org](http://ASPstore.org). And **save 10%** on gifts for your favorite ASP volunteer, family member, or friend this Christmas!

**10% Discount code\*:  
holidayswag**

*\*Excludes sale items*

## Your gifts change lives

Your support of ASP's **Warmer. Safer. Drier. Annual Fund** transforms homes and lives where needed most. From vital repairs to the construction of a new home, your gifts are life-changing for families in Central Appalachia.

**Please give your most generous gift today:**

Online | [ASPHome.org/Holiday](http://ASPHome.org/Holiday)

Toll-free | (866) 607-4433

By mail | Use enclosed return envelope

**You can support ASP anytime by mailing your gift to:**

Appalachia Service Project  
4523 Bristol Highway  
Johnson City, TN 37601