

REBUILDING HOMES, RESTORING LIVES

ASP Volunteers Transform Lives

In the heart of Sullivan County, Tennessee, where rolling hills and the beauty of nature envelop you, there's a place that embodies the essence of community, family, and history. Christal and Buddy faced an uncertain future. Their home, built in 1895, was a cherished family home, filled with the echoes of generations gone by. When they moved home to care for Christal's father in his last years, little did they know that Appalachia Service Project (ASP) volunteers would soon become their **Angels in Blue Jeans**.

Christal and Buddy's decision to move into the century-old house was rooted in a profound connection to their roots. Christal shared, *"Living close to relatives is great in so many ways. We're there for one another."* Their house was more than just bricks and mortar; it was a testament to their shared history, a place where memories intermingled with the walls, and where the bond of family remained.

The daunting task of repairing the aging home for themselves, their granddaughter, and two great-nieces, loomed large. Christal contemplated replacing it with a mobile home, prompted by the enormity of the project and their own health concerns. But a tribute to her father's wishes kept them rooted in their mission to restore their family home.



Christal and Buddy with their 'Angels in Blue Jeans'

Financial hardships and physical limitations cast a shadow over their dream until ASP intervened. Buddy had lost his job and health struggles added to their challenges. Then, a divine call arrived in the form of ASP volunteers. Christal recounted, *"My heart was overjoyed because it was just a blessing straight from God for me. I know there are so many applicants, so many people that need things just as badly, if not worse than we do."*

ASP volunteers arrived with tools, expertise, and a shared sense of purpose. They rolled up their sleeves, ready to breathe new life into the 130-year-old house. With unwavering dedication, they tackled the repairs, one nail, one piece of siding at a time.

ASP volunteers, driven by their commitment to service, poured their hearts into every task. They weatherproofed the exterior of the home, installing underpinning, insulation, and siding, while also installing an accessible ramp to make it easier for Christal and Buddy to get in and out of their home.

(story continues on page 2)



WALTER'S CORNER

I am humbled and grateful to have served ASP as its President and CEO for the last 13 years. ASP is a remarkable organization. My heart is full of hope for the future of ASP as I step into retirement early next year.



In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s immortal words, I too have a dream.

I dream of a world where all Appalachian children can go to bed at night with food in their belly, in a home that is warm, safe, and dry.

I dream of a world where the commitment of our dedicated volunteers knows no boundaries; where they can come and serve, free of charge, any time they feel led and are available.

I dream of a world where all homes beyond repair can be replaced for families, mortgage-free.

I dream of a day when ASP staff no longer have to say "No" to the thousands of families who are seeking warmth, safety, and shelter.

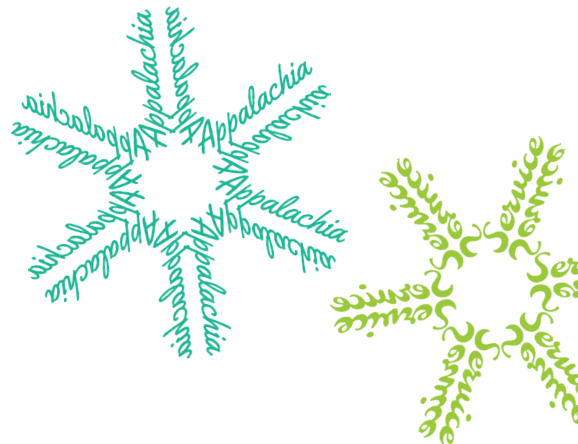
Together, we can make this dream come true, and it starts with you.

As I step into retirement, I carry with me the legacy of all the lives we have touched, the families we have empowered, and the volunteers we have inspired. I am profoundly thankful for the unwavering support and dedication you have shown through your generous giving and selfless service.

My journey doesn't end when I retire; it transforms into a new chapter where I will continue to advocate for this mission.

As I take this step towards retirement, I challenge you to take a step forward. ***Please consider making a gift today to deepend your investment in ASP's ministry, and be part of the legacy that will transform lives and communities for generations to come.***

Let us, together, make real the promise of a warmer, safer, and drier home for every child in Appalachia,



(story continued from cover)

As the last project was finished, Christal and Buddy's home was no longer a relic of the past but a symbol of the future. Their home was now a place of warmth and safety for them and the 3 teenage girls they are now raising. Christal summed it up perfectly, "I'm a little nostalgic, but without them coming in and doing this, we could have gone on living here for a while, but it would've fallen down around us."

The story of Christal and Buddy, as well as the incredible efforts of ASP volunteers, serves as a testament to the power of community, dedication, and the enduring spirit of Appalachia.

Volunteers didn't just mend a house—they mended hearts, restored dreams, and forged an unbreakable bond with this precious family. **The work ASP volunteers provide is a gift of hope and a promise of a brighter future for families like Christal and Buddy's.**



Project

VOLUNTEER VOICES

Red Shiny Roof & a Dry Home

Last spring, I was looking for a service opportunity for my family to do together. I wanted my kids to have a new experience doing something outside themselves. I saw an ad for ASP and the more I learned, it seemed like a good fit. When I mentioned it to others so many people would say, "Oh, I did that when I was in high school!" and spoke well of the opportunity.



I didn't know exactly what to expect—where we would be or what we would be doing—until closer to time to leave. We learned a couple of weeks before that we would be in Kentucky putting a metal roof on a house.

The week was rainy which made the work challenging. It took the boys a bit to get the hang of hammering the nails through the drip edge and screwing the neoprene screws in. I can't tell you how many screws went sliding down and off the roof as we learned, but by week's end one of their comments was that they realized things that were hard at the beginning became easy. Indeed, by the end of the week they were installing sheet after sheet in no time at all.

During the rainy times when it wasn't safe to be on the roof, we took on another project and replaced the back deck on the house.

The thing that stood out most to one of my kids was the appreciation of the homeowner and the small acts of kindness and gratitude offered in the giving of cold cokes or Gatorade at the end of a hot workday. Knowing he didn't have a lot to give and seeing his desire to bless us made such a big impression.

I was proud of how we worked together as a family, each finding our place to make things go smoothly. There were a few tense moments as we tried to communicate and understand what we needed from each other, but we found our rhythm and had a fun time together.

It was nice seeing that red shiny roof, watching the rain roll off it, and hearing the homeowner report that his house was now dry. I am so glad we had this opportunity.

BY WENDY McCOLLUM (Hoover, AL)

Want to share your story? We're looking for **VOLUNTEER VOICES** to share on ASP's blog. Email Chelsi@ASPhome.org for details!

2023 SUMMER IMPACT

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

Thank you!



THE MOUNTAINS
are calling &
I MUST GO

6,469 FAMILIES

are praying for friends like you to serve with ASP

REGISTER NOW

ASPhome.org/Summer2024



GIVE THE GIFT OF ASP SWAG!

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

10% Discount code*: holidayswag

**Excludes sale items*



MAXIMIZE YOUR IMPACT

Giving through Qualified Charitable Distributions

In our ongoing mission to make homes warmer, safer, and drier in the Appalachian region, we encourage you to think about ways you can support our mission while also potentially enjoying substantial tax benefits.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are charitable gifts made directly from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to qualified nonprofit organizations such as Appalachia Service Project.

TAX ADVANTAGE

QCDs allow individuals aged 70½ or older to contribute up to \$100,000 per year from their IRAs to qualified charitable organizations, such as ASP, without incurring taxable income. This means you can fulfill your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) while supporting a cause you're passionate about.

GREATER IMPACT

Your QCDs go a long way in supporting our mission to make homes warmer, safer, and drier for families in need. These contributions help ensure that ASP can continue its vital work in the Appalachian region.

To explore this giving option further or to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to ASP, please consult with your financial advisor or the custodian of your IRA. **Together, we can build hope and transform the lives of the families we serve.**

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](https://aspstore.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

