

**APPALACHIA
SERVICE
PROJECT**

**GOOD SAMARITAN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**



WHAT IS ASP?

- Since 1969, ASP has made homes warmer, safer, and drier for families and provided transformational service experiences for volunteers. Each year, more than 15,000 volunteers serve with ASP, providing critical repairs for more than 350 families.
- Appalachia Service Project is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia.
- Appalachia Service Project envisions the eradication of substandard housing in Central Appalachia and the transformation of everyone who comes in contact with this ministry.

GOOD SAM PARTICIPATION

- Initiated by Nancy Manolis and Nancy Diggs who saw a presentation by founder Tex Evans
- 41 consecutive years: 1979-2019
- Have worked in Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky – Show [Map](#)
- 641 participants from Good Samaritan
- Groups range in size from 20-71; average 40.3
- Most number of trips: 26 each by Joe Cleaveland and Terry Stevens
- 6 Good Samaritans have served on staff
- Terry Stevens served on ASP's National Advisory Council



SHARED EXPERIENCE

- Youth often go “alone” at first to establish their own identity there.
- Good family (parent/child) shared experience.
- Family traditions – Some who went as youth have later gone as adult leaders, some taking their own children (Amy Manolis)
- Several families have sent 3 generations on the trip (Cleaveland Family, Simmonds/Monson Family).
- Welcome participants who are not members of Good Sam.



WHAT TO EXPECT



ASP CENTER AND
STAFF



OVERVIEW OF THE
WEEK



TYPE OF WORK
PROJECTS

CENTER AND STAFF

- Schools and churches across the region are used as work centers
- Centers are led by 4 college age adults
- Staff members plan and coordinate everything
- Food prepared by local volunteers
- Shower facilities vary by center
- Sleeping quarters in gyms or classrooms

Breakfast Dishes	Dinner Clean-up	Sweep & Mop Hallway	Lunch Set-up Clean-up	
TRICK SWAYZE	Supply Inventory	Breakfast Dishes	Dinner Clean-up	Sweep & Mop Hallway
MYSTERY	TRASH	Breakfast Dishes	Dinner Clean-up	Sweep & Mop Hallway
BLOODY MARY	Sweep & Mop Hallway	MYSTERY	Bathrooms	Breakfast Dishes
BEEBLE JUICE	Dinner Clean-up	Sweep & Mop Hallway	MYSTERY	Bathrooms
PEEVES	Dinner Dishes	Lunch Set-up Clean-up	TRASH	MYSTERY
CHRISTMAS PAST	Breakfast Clean-up	Dinner Dishes	Lunch Set-up Clean-up	TRASH
FLYING BUTCHMAN	Lunch Set-up Clean-up	Breakfast Clean-up	Dinner Dishes	Supply Inventory
Bathrooms	Supply Inventory	Breakfast Clean-up	Dinner Dishes	



WEEKLY OVERVIEW

- Morning devotions
- Lunch preparation
- Supply runs
- Worksite
- Evening Gathering
- Culture Night
- Picnic
- Ice Cream



TYPES OF PROJECTS

- Dig a drainage ditch
- Reinforce foundation
- Construct underpinning/skirting on trailer
- Build porches, decks and stairs
- Repair and insulate floors, walls and ceilings
- Install tin or SBS roofing material
- Room additions



IMPACT ON YOUTH

- Christian Youth Mission Trip
 - Allows youth to have a Christian centered experience
 - Challenges participants to explore their faith
 - Focus on impacting others by making connections
 - Prayer, reflection and music are a main component
 - Fun but purposeful work



IMPACT ON YOUTH

- Immersion experience in a very different culture
 - Per capita income is drastically different between Hennepin County and counties in Appalachia
 - Lack of opportunity there, particularly for jobs – may be very low paying or far away.
 - Kids also see that families can be comfortable even without lots of amenities
 - Experience firsthand a family who lives in circumstances very different from their own
 - We try ahead of the trip to raise their awareness of cultural differences, issues
 - Trip bolsters empathy



IMPACT ON YOUTH

- Sense of appreciation
 - Youth get to experience explicit, genuine appreciation for their efforts by the families and by members of the community
 - Get to express their own gratitude on the trip – Good Sam Youth prepare cards and songs to thank our hosts and staff – Jamestown UMC, for example
- Sense of accomplishment for youth
 - To see your finished work and its impact on a family
 - Learn new skills like basic carpentry - most youth are intimidated by power tools but really enjoy learning to use them
 - Allowed to lead projects



IMPACT ON YOUTH

- Why do we go so far away?
 - Tradition! ASP is part of the DNA of Good Sam.
 - Being far away literally and figuratively puts distance between your home and your experience.
 - Distance from your normal makes a big difference
 - Limited cell service during the trip is a blessing as kids rely more on each other.
 - Bonding occurs with other youth, adult leaders, staff members and their host family.
 - Getting to experience a culture that is very different but has similar basic aspects of enjoyment and connection



IMPACT ON YOUTH

- Many of our youth will refer to ASP being the highlight of their Good Sam experience when they are recognized as High School graduation.
- Some youth will write their college application essay about their ASP experience and the impact it had on them.
 - D.J. Erickson (ASP 2003, 2004, 2006) went on to work in the Admissions Office at St. Olaf. During his time in this role, he saw applications essays about ASP experiences.



MEMORIES

“I worked for a woman who in one conversation said she had to choose between food and medicine, yet she insisted on giving us a pizza lunch.”

“One woman I worked for wanted to thank us and all she had to give us was figurines she had collected over the years.”

“I’ll never forget the time that the band that played for us on Culture Night invited the whole group to the local town gathering place where they were playing on Friday night. When we got there, the townspeople had saved all the chairs up front for our group.”

“All of us have been stopped on the street or in the grocery store by someone who wanted to thank us.”

“Participants have stayed in contact with families they worked for and have visited and sent gifts.”

TRIP COST

- Total cost: approx. \$30,000
- \$500 per person
- \$100 deposit due by January 15, 2023
- \$400 balance due on April 19, 2023
- Scholarships are available

*****Looking for fundraising suggestions*****



RESOURCES

- Good Sam website - good.org/event/asp
 - Trip information
 - Online registration
 - Important dates
 - Required reading
 - Packing list
 - ASP forms
- ASP website – asphome.org



**COMMENTS /
QUESTIONS?**



THANK YOU!

