

THE JOURNAL



President's Log

This job takes a lot of faith. No matter the amount of planning or experience, no matter how large or small the project, complications consistently occur. From the weather to hidden termite damage, there are so many factors beyond my control it's really a bit daunting... until I hand control the situation to God.

This was especially true last year. Your willingness to give your precious time and money allowed us to tackle some of the largest, most complicated projects we've ever encountered. The impact on the families was absolutely life-changing!

To be completely transparent, we picked these projects because the families were exactly who we're designed to help... Their projects, however, were bigger and more complicated than we'd normally take-on, but after deliberation and prayer, we knew the families were (barely) enough faith we could do it, but not quite enough to be sure...

My pessimism was echoed by my site staff on a few projects, but we moved forward, anxiously, with the sobering knowledge that the families and our volunteers were trusting us to direct tasks we didn't know how to do with confidence.

Not surprisingly, we ended up facing issues on several projects that were beyond our level of knowledge – but each time we were in over our heads, the right people showed up to move the projects forward (God did that)! In addition, we avoided rain on many occasions when the forecast gave 100% chance!

Still, after 20 years of experiencing Divine Intervention a regular basis, I struggle handing things over to God. Recently, a sermon reminded me that "without faith, it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6

That reminder hit me like a ton of bricks. All the long hours, hard labor, battle-scars and accomplishments don't impress God... only faith.

Starting my day with a focus on building faith is my New Year's Resolution for 2025. If you are willing to pray for me, I'd love that!!

Blessings & Thanks,
Jason Benedict
- President



Thank you for making a difference!

"It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived"
-Helen R. Walton

"They told us everything looked good"
A few years ago, The Reynolds family found the perfect home, with room for all 7 of them, along with land for hunting & growing food. It even included a big garage and outbuildings for family's lawncare business!!

With medical issues affecting most of the family members and a somewhat variable income, they were concerned about unexpected, expensive repairs. When the inspector said **"everything looks good"** (including the large roof), the family confidently purchased the home.

"When it rains, it pours"
Within a year, the family started noticing water spots on their ceilings. With a nearly 6,000 ft² roof (well over double the size of the home) covering the house, garage and walkways. It was leaking everywhere, but finding \$30,000 for a roofing company to replace it was out of reach, so the family hired several people to patch it, but the leaks continued causing plenty of damage and mold.

Between the family, our donors and our mission teams, we were able to raise the funds for the repairs! Upon further inspection, however, we realized the roof was built incorrectly over the kitchen and needed to be redesigned – which was beyond the knowledge of our staff...

With just enough faith to carry-on, we prepared for our first mission group on the Reynold's home who, after lengthy discussion, figured out the design issue and put a double crew on the job, setting us up with a very strong beginning!!

In just a couple weeks, with the family working alongside us, we were able to replace the leaky roof, repair the damage caused by the roof leaks and even replace a leaky toilet, a couple leaky faucets and a

water damaged floor! This was the first Thanksgiving without roof-leaks in the Reynold's home!



We have our own Rooms!!

With her bed in the middle of the dining room, 6 grandkids sharing the home's two bedrooms and her daughters in the garage, Carol's house was tiny for 9 people, but also very tidy and cared for.

Carol and her daughters tried to save enough to add a room, but became overwhelmed after paying for major plumbing and vehicle repairs, so they asked for help. Here's what we found:

- Carol's bed was in the dining room, which is wide-open to the living room & kitchen.
- The three boys share just two beds in a very small bedroom.
- The two teenage girls and their 2-year old sister shared a bedroom without a closet.

We were impressed with the family and wanted to help them have adequate rooms for sleeping, changing, homework, etc. *-they really needed it-* but building 3 rooms was more than we could handle on one project. [Continued on back](#)

We have our own Rooms!

Continued from front

Our staff member, Chad, designed a creative, workable solution that the family loved:

- Build an addition for 2 boys (leaving the current small bedroom for the 3rd boy)
- Convert the dining room to a bedroom for Carol –
- Divide the girl's bedroom into two smaller rooms, giving

This would essentially add three rooms for the cost and effort of 1 and a half!

We had just four volunteer crews scheduled for the project, meaning everything needed to go smoothly (it typically takes 3 crews just to complete a room addition). Unfortunately, our first group arrived and Chad, "the man with the plan," was completing another project. To stay on track, it was essential for the boy's room addition to have the foundation, subfloor and walls completed by our first group, but we needed a skilled leader to design the plan and direct the crew.

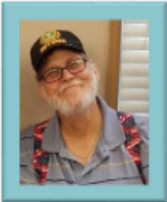
Amazingly, one of the volunteers in our first crew had the skills and experience to lead the team even further than I expected, getting the addition completely under roof by the end of the week! Over the summer, we were able to complete all three bedrooms, providing much needed space and privacy for the family, as well as complete a variety of additional work needed to maintain the home for years to come.

The story could end here... but it doesn't! During lunch-time devotions, some of our student volunteers led two of Carol's grandkids to accept Jesus as their Savior!! Thank you, so much for your support. Together, we're making a lasting difference.



We lost a co-worker and friend, but his legacy lives on.

Over the past decade, Andy Gawura was a larger-than-life presence in our ministry, impacting the lives of our volunteers and the families we help, through his willingness to listen and care, desire to mentor, and the ability to find humor in *any* situation. For the many of you who met Andy, I'll bet your memory includes his iconic laugh... If so, I'd also bet it just made you smile!



Andy's top 3 priorities in life were our Country (US Army Veteran), his Family and God (in alphabetical order), but working with Good Neighbors definitely made his top 5 list, along with woodworking, of course. He was so excited about the positive impact we were making on the families and volunteers, that he told everyone about it. At his funeral, one of our friends said "you ministry just lost its best promoter". There's a lot of truth in that statement, but what stings more is... we lost one of our best friends and we miss him.

He left a legacy through his amazing family, his faith, good deeds and his ability to mentor. In addition to teaching students on our mission trips, he mentored students at his woodworking shop. Two of his students joined him as site staff for our mission groups and, this past summer, one of his students brought us a mission group and they're already scheduled to return next summer!

While his is very much missed, Andy's long-term battle with cancer is finally over and we'll see his smiling face again when we get to heaven. Until then, his legacy lives on through the memories he left and the lives he touched!

Legacy Gifts

As you plan for the future, consider leaving a Legacy of Hope, by including Good Neighbors Inc. in your estate planning.

By naming Good Neighbors as a beneficiary in your will, you can help ensure your legacy continues for years to come through our ministry's work.

If you'd like to discuss this further, please reach out to us. We'd love to partner with you as you plan your Legacy.

Email: jason@goodneighbors-inc.org

Or

Call: (606)887-0082

In-Office Hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10-5

Our Work: Good Neighbors, Inc. is a 501c3 charity

Who:

Assists employed people, whose self-sufficiency is threatened by a specific incident requiring urgent/ necessary home repairs

What We Do:

Provide needed repairs, at no charge, as a one-time-only event, using the labor of volunteer groups from across the nation

Require people we help to: give back a day of their time to help others & take our financial counseling course

We Help When:

We confirm: current employment, need and willingness to take part in their repair

We believe our assistance will allow the recipient to continue living self-sufficiently

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

WWW.GOODNEIGHBORS-INC.ORG

Facebook: Good Neighbors Appalachia Instagram: @goodneighborsapp

What I'll remember most from my mission week!

In year 2 with Good Neighbors, I still continue to love the energy and enthusiasm of all the staff. The sites may change, but the people's attitude is the most important!

Adult, Texas

I think I will most remember the look on the family's face when they saw how much progress was completed!

Student, Georgia

There are people out there that have it worse and it feels good to help. Meeting and talking with these families reconnects you to the world.

Student, New Jersey

I loved getting to meet & know everyone. The staff was so amazing and I just really enjoyed spending time with everyone (I also loved the food! Thank you Pauline!!)

Student, Georgia

God showed up this week!

Adult, Kentucky

I will most remember the family I served – they were so hospitable & kind!

Adult, Maryland

HELP US REACH OUR 12x2025 GOAL



SCAN ME

We are continuing our goal of getting 12 new monthly supporters in 2025 and **YOU** could be just the person we need!

Just a **\$1 a day** could make a world a difference!!!

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



Every day, life-changing opportunities are made possible by people like you.



Scan the code above to make a credit card donation or make checks payable to Good Neighbors, Inc.

1. I will GIVE a one-time gift of:

- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25

2. I will GIVE a monthly gift of:

- \$300
- \$150
- \$50
- \$25

3. My Best Gift of: \$ _____

4. I pledge my prayer support during the next 12 months.

5. Please contact my church about a Mission Trip.

(Please write contact info on back)

6. I would consider serving using my skills to assist Good Neighbors (seasonal staff, fundraising, etc.)

(Please write contact info on back)

Thank you for your support!
Good Neighbors, Inc. is a 501C3 charity.
Contributions are tax deductible.