



REPAIRING HOMES & RESTORING HOPE FOR WORKING-POOR FAMILIES

Presidents Log



"Do you want to feel old?" temporarily taking an eye off my toddler wandering our town's Christmas event, I looked up at the woman asking the question. Instantly, memories flooded my brain and brought a huge smile to my face. She pointed to her daughter who was helping sell crafts. "I was pregnant with her when you worked on our house. She's 16 now!"

Even after 17 years, I remember that family like it was yesterday! Her husband worked as a firefighter for our city until a rare skin disease took his ability to work and eventually took his life.

As tragic as it was to lose him (I still miss that guy), a few months after we completed our work, he stopped by my office to tell me he "got saved" and that the interaction with our volunteers had played a significant role in that decision!

It makes me chuckle thinking about her question **"Do you want to feel old?"** That's exactly how I was feeling! A couple days earlier, a local business blessed us with a donation of a couple dozen pallets of flooring. Robin, Summer and I spent two very long evenings picking it up and unloading it all by hand. My back was sore and I was feeling a bit old and crabby.

While my back may still need an adjustment, my perspective sure got realigned! I realized every box of flooring I unloaded has the potential to play a part in providing hope to a family in this life and the next!

I'm so grateful for the ability to serve others and I'm equally grateful for the sacrifice of hard earned dollars and hard work YOU have provided to this ministry. Together, we're making a big difference!!

"I am tired in the Lord's work, but not tired of it." – George Whitefield

Blessings and Thanks,
Jason Benedict

Home for the Holidays?

***Shauna** was working 911 dispatch when she received a call about a **house fire**. When she heard the location, her first concern was for the safety of her elderly next-door neighbors. Then, she found out it was **her home – can you imagine taking that call?!**

In their 60's, without homeowner's insurance and small incomes, Shauna and her husband Jacob lost everything but their vehicles and the clothes they were wearing. With only a temporary place to live and few resources to rebuild their home, they felt hopeless.



Tonia purchased a home that had been gutted following a house fire. It was a home she could afford with the perfect layout for her son, her mother and herself. She emptied her 401k and hired a contractor to make the shell into a home. Unfortunately, the contractor took her money and never completed the work, leaving her without even a single room finished! All she wanted to do was invite family and friends over for dinner and games, but the overwhelming amount of work needed to make this a reality was far out of reach.



Gayle was feeling mugged by life. She lost two close family members during a flood and had an upcoming surgery that would severely limit her mobility. Even if she could successfully avoid all the holes in her floor to get through her house, the steps going up to her home were extremely dangerous. Normally optimistic, Gayle was falling into a deep depression.

Throughout a busy spring and summer, mission groups from across the country joined us to bring HOPE to these families and many, many more with similar situations!

Gayle applied for help in 2019 (COVID put us way behind). When we finally called to schedule her project assessment early this year, it literally saved her life! Too many stressors had added up and, feeling hopeless, she was about to take her own life. Our call brought hope and the timing was nothing short of a miracle!

With the help of several mission groups, Gayle's home is safe and solid inside and out. Most importantly for her and her family, however, is that her naturally high level of optimism is back and she has a great sense of hope for the future!

Tonia also applied for help in back in 2019 and was slowly making progress on her house, but it would probably have taken another decade to complete everything needing to be done! Mission groups throughout the spring and summer spent many weeks of drywall finishing (every room in the house), foundation repair, drainage work, window and siding replacement, electrical and plumbing repairs. With just painting and floor covering left for the family to complete, they're planning a cookout to celebrate and we can't wait to be there!!



Shauna and Jacob needed a home built ASAP! This is not something Good Neighbors typically does, so the outcome wasn't a sure thing, but we gave it a shot anyway. Looking back at everything that fell into place, it isn't hard to see God at work. Just acquiring the materials and labor to build a home from the ground-up was an exercise in extreme creativity paired with divine intervention! From skilled volunteers calling out of the blue when we needed them most, to a group of college students helping a contractor tear down a home and repurposing the good lumber...

By the end of the summer, the pile of charred rubble was transformed into a cozy little home! There was still work to complete, but Jacob and Shauna picked up where we left off with help from others in our community including a local electrician getting power to the house and a cabinet maker providing cabinets and counter tops!

To all of you who gave your time and money, you provided more than just homes – you gave HOPE!!

* All names have been changed to protect the families' privacy.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!
WWW.GOODNEIGHBORS-INC.ORG
Facebook: Good Neighbors Appalachia
Instagram: @goodneighborsappalachia

WE DID IT!!
THANK YOU FOR GIVING

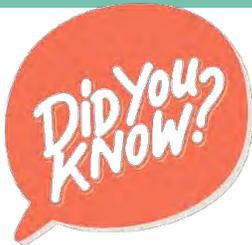
We met our goal and we're so excited to help the three families from our Thanksgiving send-out!!

Your donations will be paired with hard work from our staff and volunteer groups to provide these families with dry, safe and warm homes, financial tools to prepare for the future and a desire to help their neighbors in need!

Without your willingness to give, we would not have had the finances necessary to help these families.

Your donations have a HUGE impact!!

Sincere Thanks and Blessings to the individuals and businesses who gave last year – **You made a difference!**



Our volunteers provided
\$455,240
worth of labor in 2022!!

Based on the 2022 national volunteer labor rate (rev. April '22)

Many Companies **match** charitable donations from their employees and several provide donations for verified volunteer hours!!

We appreciate everyone who asked their companies last year - it was a big help!

In 2022, we hosted volunteers from **3** new States **4** new countries!!

Recent studies in the US and UK have determined we are good for your health!

The health benefits of volunteering include lower blood pressure, a boost in happiness, improved mental wellbeing and much more!

Visit our website: www.goodneighbors-inc.org to schedule a mission trip in 2023!

Our WORK: Good Neighbors, Inc. is a 501(C)(3) 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

Introducing Robin, the newest member of our team!

We're excited to announce the newest member of our Good Neighbors team! In addition to taking on our office manager role, Robin has jumped in when & wherever we've had a need – impressing our staff and volunteers with her range of abilities! We've asked her to share, in her own words, about her decision to (finally) join our team:



I was at a crossroads and needed to make a life changing decision. The anxiety in my mind was building up. Why? Because I was no longer in my comfort zone. This new position was something I had wanted to pursue and dreamed of doing for a long time. But, for the last 25 years I had served the church and the people of the church with all my heart and soul. Call me crazy, because really, I have no clue. Well, that's not fully accurate.

Over the course of the last 25 years, I signed up for several different mission trips and traveled to many different places. I attended several conferences and retreats to encourage and equip myself on how to use my gifts and talents and speak God's message with love and encouragement to others. I had dedicated my life to serve.

As I journeyed through this life-changing path, it felt like my fears and insecurities were beginning to take hold of me. The boat I was in was slowly changing direction and I was in unfamiliar waters. Yet, I can NOT help but be in the boat to answer God's call on my life. It's scary and exciting! In one way, I want to stay in that boat and then in the next, I can't wait to get out of it! The battle is on between my flesh and spirit, between what's easy and what's more difficult. Sailing through smooth calm waters or treading rough waves and stormy weather.

I can't stay in my safe zone and follow God's will at the same time either. I've come to realize that to follow God's will effectively, at times you've got to get out of the boat and walk on water by faith, all the while focusing on Jesus.

When I started this ministry call on my life, God didn't give specific instructions, just simply to serve. Now, after 25 years, He's revealing more of His plan to me. That plan is a total life change, in a new boat, sailing on a different body of water.

After many nights of prayer and seeking out God's will, there was really only one thing holding me back from pursuing my dream. **It was fear.** To realize why you're not pursuing something or moving forward, it's most always because of *fear!* That just kinda disgusts me as I type that out. *"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."*

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

As a warrior for the Lord, I can either go into battle with Him or I can retreat because I'm fearful. Well, retreat is not an option! God has given us gifts and a purpose, and that's to lift His name on high and glorify Him in all we do and say. Of course, I can sit back and shake in my boots and follow the flesh, or I can tell Satan to get behind me while I do what God has called me to do, to serve, which is to help those less fortunate on His behalf.

Jesus calls us to focus on His peace, His place, His promises and His plan. He provides the boat, the compass and the paddles. He gives us all free will and tells us we are not alone, that He is with us always.

When I think about the logic behind all of that, it really sinks in, because I realize a spiritual battle has been won. The Lord has taught me to have faith and trust Him throughout this journey and what I hope to pass on to you is His wisdom when you find yourself at a crossroads.

The crossroads of my life has led me to Good Neighbors. This past 10 months at Good Neighbors has been an awesome walk of faith with friends all around me supporting and encouraging every step. The mission of this company and its owners and supporters are focused on changing lives through Purposeful Relationships and Positive Experiences. I am blessed to be a small part of this awesome group of youth and adults as we together experience the change in the lives of those we serve.

May the blessings of this Holiday Season bring you and your family Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

Sincerely, Robin L. Slone



Dear Santa,

We've helped a lot of families this year, but several volunteers + donors noticed our facilities need help too + asked us to make a list:

- The office roof is leaking
- Ceiling tiles have water damage or are missing
- The office floor needs replacing
- 4 - 4x8 LED Office light fixtures
- 5 - 4ft LED Shop lights
- Craftsman Cordless tool Batteries
- Staff House/Lodge roof is leaking
- The kitchen needs new flooring + ceiling
- Tree Removal on the hillside behind houses
- Landscaping + Foundation work (could use Professional help)
- Update on both houses Electrical
- Redo Plumbing, Gas + Sewer lines
- Drywall + finish work to seal holes throughout houses
- Safe heating ability for Bunk House (Double Mini Split)

Thank you for being so kind + generous. I appreciate it!

From Your Good Neighbors in KY

Please Memo
Donations:
Facilities



PLANT A SEED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



1) Yes, I want to GIVE a one-time gift:

- \$2,500
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$_____ (Other)

2) Yes, I want to GIVE monthly:

- \$300/month (\$10/day)
- \$150/month (\$5/day)
- \$30/month (\$1/day)
- \$_____ /month

Please make checks payable to:
Good Neighbors, Inc.
Thank you for your support!

When you give...

It really is like planting a seed
because your gift multiplies!

- I would like to give by credit card online.
You may do so by clicking the donate tab on our website at www.goodneighbors-inc.org
- I pledge my prayer support during the next 12 months
- Please contact my church about a Mission Trip
Write contact info on back
- I would consider serving using my skills to assist Good Neighbors (seasonal staff, fundraising, etc.)
Write contact info on back

Good Neighbors, Inc. is a 501 c3 charity.
Contributions are tax-deductible