



REPAIRING HOMES &  
RESTORING HOPE  
FOR WORKING-POOR  
FAMILIES

## President's Log

### Generations of Generosity!!



Jamming with life-long friends at St. Luke's in MN  
My 1<sup>st</sup> mission trip to KY began here 25 years ago!

**When young men and women give their blood, sweat and tears to serve others and can't wait to do-it-again...**

It's an uncommon occurrence for today's teens to be excited to surrender their cell phones for a week of hard labor, extreme weather and just a few hours' sleep on an air mattress...but the experience invigorates them, grabbing the attention of their friends and their community!!

Parents of volunteers join as chaperones – just for the sake of deciphering this phenomena – which goes beyond the adventures (cliff jumping, bonfires, power tools, banjos and roughin'-it) to see what it's all about...

What happens is that a seed of hope is planted, very similar to the experience of the families we serve, that life can be harnessed in a purposeful way – in which we can do more than survive, but thrive and leave a Legacy!

To all our donors who have supplied the building materials, tools and numerous additional resources to keep our mission groups rockin'

We Salute You!!!

*Jason Benedict*

- President

## Armed with Weapons of Mass Construction...

Our 2019 Winter, Spring and Summer volunteer groups traveled across the country to help hard-working families with major home repairs including: Roofs, Foundations, Kitchens and Bathrooms – along with constructing room additions, major plumbing and electrical jobs – even building a tiny-home!

The projects, of course, are a Big Deal!! They're what we've all sacrificed our dollars, time and labor toward. Completing these projects provides children and parents with dry, safe and warm homes!!

What could be more glorious than being part of this process? Well, that's a question worth considering from the perspective of our volunteers and the families we serve. **Imagine this:**

On your vacation: you rise up from your air mattress at 7am, toss on your work clothes, pack a lunch and prepare to brave the elements and insects to help someone you've never met, hundreds of miles from home...

At your home: a crew of high-school or college students you've never met, from hundreds of miles away, shows-up at your house with a bunch of power tools they are about to use for the first time...



**From a family's perspective, here's what Regina had to say:** All the volunteers and staff were wonderful! I have to say, **they came in as strangers but they left as friends!**

My family and I reached out to Good Neighbors to get help adding another bed room onto our home. Our daughter's room was very small, with enough room for a crib, changing table, and a small chest of drawers.

Once she outgrew her crib, there wasn't going to be enough room for even a twin size bed. When the bedroom was added on, her and our son were moved into bigger bedrooms. Now we all have more room and the kids have more room to play!

I am very thankful to each and every person who helped, not only our family but several families this past summer. I love that Good Neighbors only helps working families. They help the families living in poverty that too often get overlooked just because they have employment.

Thank you to Good Neighbors and all the hard working volunteers. We will always keep a place in our hearts for each of you!

**From our volunteer's perspective:** Our days were filled with laughter, sweat (lots of it!), hard work, precious moments playing with Regina's children and **we really became a part of their family!**

We were served a fantastic meal one day, and provided with refreshments like cold watermelon or ice cream on others. We were definitely spoiled! They worked along with us and did so much to make us feel welcome!

An amazing part of our mission trips is everything that is built – in addition to homes... In less-than-perfect situations, relationships are forged, faith is strengthened and a solid foundation of love and service is built.

Is the process glorious? Maybe so!

15 YEARS SERVING  
WORKING- POOR  
FAMILIES

VOLUNTEERS GROUPS FROM  
20 States  
HAVE ATTENDED  
GOOD NEIGHBORS MISSION TRIPS

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



## The Impact on our Volunteers

Good Neighbors has always existed for two major purposes – both equally important:

- Helping hard-working families who need a hand-up
- Engaging students in a service experience that will have a life-long impact.

The work we do on families' homes is easy to see in pictures, but the impact on our volunteers goes beyond their often-present smiles...

*Here's how two volunteers described their experience:*

### *Sophie – student volunteer*

As a first year volunteer, the only foundation I had for expectations was the word of others, all of which was wonderful!

I knew, going into the week, that I would endure a long drive to Kentucky, be introduced to power tools, meet new people, and jump off of a cliff. All of which happened, along with so much more!

Not only was I introduced to power tools, I was able to use a circular saw, an oscillating tool, a screwdriver and an angle saw, along with putting down mortar and tile across a kitchen floor and a shower.

Not only did I jump off a cliff, I felt a rush of fear and excitement hitting me as my feet left the rock and plunged into the water, and witnessed other people overcome a fear of jumping and heights.

Not only did I meet new people, I heard stories about living in Germany from a Good Neighbors staff member, learned stories about my faith and their deeper meaning from a fellow student volunteer, listened to a Paintsville construction worker talk about the importance of doing the Lord's work, and saw first-hand how location impacts culture from a Good Neighbors' staff member from Kentucky who is my age.

On top of all this, I ate incredible home cooked food, sang timeless tunes around a fire, sat beneath beautiful fireworks, danced to real country music, sang Wagon Wheel by Darius Rucker at least three times each day, ate dinner with the woman whose home I worked on, became even closer to my peers, and felt at one with God.

The experience is unique and impactful. Its only problem is that everyone has so much fun that the days fly by too fast. I'm incredibly happy I gave a week of my summer to give it to those who truly need it. The mortar from placing tile has yet to leave my clothes or my heart.

2019 STATISTICS:

**13,448**

VOLUNTEER  
LABOR HOURS

**75**

PEOPLE LIVE IN  
DRYER, SAFER,  
WARMER HOUSING

### *Beth – chaperone*

This was my first mission trip of any kind. When I read that I was assigned to a job site to remove and replace a roof, I thought there must be some mistake; I have no construction skills or even been on a roof. Did anyone look at my talent sheet? How could I possibly be of use on this site?

Seeing our young adults in action was amazing. Five young adults, two chaperones and our Good Neighbors' supervisor did great work. Within hours of arriving at the site, they were climbing the ladder, walking on the roof and getting into the work fearlessly and wholeheartedly. Everyone was committed to getting the new roof done the right way for Brenda, our Good Neighbors' client. It was a labor of love; each member worked as a team to accomplish our goal of finishing the roof and cleaning the site.

As the week unfolded, the Lord revealed my special role on the team. I wasn't comfortable getting on the ladder to roof, so I worked on the ground holding the ladder while others went up and down, bringing roofing debris to a pickup truck and picking up nails with a magnetic nail sweeper.

Being on the ground gave me the opportunity to talk with Brenda about herself, family and concerns. Her husband had passed away just a few months ago. On our second workday, as Brenda was returning from getting the mail, she exclaimed "What, What?" I turned to ask if it was good or bad news. She said it was good news! She had been expecting a check but the amount was over five times more than she expected. She was overjoyed and grateful and felt this unexpected extra money was another gift from God to help her finish the other projects in her home.

The check was made payable to her husband's estate and there was some difficulty in depositing the check. She told me about her problem with the banks. That was when I knew it was no mistake that I was put on this job site; I work as a bank trust officer and part of my job involves the administration of estate settlements.

God knows the big picture and puts us where we are all needed; we just have to trust Him!



**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**



# PLANT A SEED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



Good Neighbors, Inc.  
P.O. Box 640  
Staffordsville, KY 41256



## 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

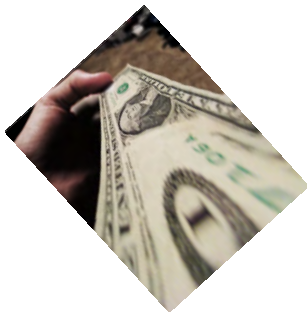
Please make checks payable to:  
Good Neighbors, Inc.  
Thank you for your support!

## 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](http://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(c)(3) charity.  
Contributions are tax-deductible



## *What can my donation accomplish?*

*Well...A lot, really!!*

### **A Donation of:**

**\$50** can buy enough 2x4's and nails to frame-up a 12' wall!!



*...An additional*

**\$75** can buy the insulation and exterior sheathing to box the wall in...

*\* In case you though small donations didn't matter... just*

**\$25** can buy enough electrical wire, boxes and outlets to power the wall to-code!



*...Moving-on, a generous donation of*

**\$100** can supply insulation, exterior house wrap, drywall and screws/nails to get the inside and outside ready to finish!



### **A Final-Gift of**

**\$150** can finish the project with exterior vinyl siding, drywall tape, mud, paint and trim!! –  
*pics from one of our completed summer projects...*



*Note: An "off-season" purchase happening NOW at our Lowes saved between 18% - 48% on these materials! Donations received now often have MORE financial impact than later...*



## ***What can my donation accomplish?***

*Well...A lot, really!!*

### **A Donation of \$500:**

**Can provide a family with a safe, functional bathroom!!**

**Parts = \$500:** New subfloor, plumbing/sewer, water-proof floor covering, fixtures, trim...

**Labor = \$1,000:** **Free +** a service experience, from our volunteers, that will be remembered forever!!



### **A Donation of \$1,000:**

**Can provide a family with a workable kitchen!!**

**Parts = \$1,000:** New subfloor, cabinets/counter tops, drywall, plumbing, water-proof floor covering, fixtures, trim...

**Labor = \$1,500:** **Free +** a service experience, from our volunteers, that will be remembered forever!!

### **A Donation of \$1,500:**

**Can provide a family with a new roof!!**

**Parts = \$1,500:** New Shingles/Tin, sheathing repair, hardware, vapor barrier...

**Labor = \$2,300:** **Free +** a service experience, from our volunteers, that will be remembered forever!!



### **A Donation of \$2,500:**

**Can provide a family with a bedroom addition**

***to keep their family together!!\****

*\*a bedroom for each gender is required by KY social Services*

**Parts = \$2,500:** Foundation, flooring, framing, siding, roofing, electrical, interior walls, finishing...

**Labor = \$5,000:** **Free +** a service experience, from our volunteers, that will be remembered forever!!

***Note: An "off-season" purchase happening NOW at our Lowes saved between 18% - 48% on these materials! Donations received now often have MORE financial impact than later...***