

THE JOURNAL



Tragedy and Transformation

"Good Neighbors has been a huge Blessing to our little family in more ways than I could have imagined!

We were given our house, but shortly ran out of money to fix everything needed to make it a functional home. You all met the necessities we needed help with and much more!

Without you all, we would've been in a horrible situation, and our daughter would still be without a bedroom. We can't thank you guys enough for what you have done for us. Thank you for all you do!"
 - Heidi & Tanner Clayburn*

For the past two years, Heidi and Tanner Clayburn juggled work, school, raising a 3 year old and putting an impressive amount of work into their home just to make it semi-livable. With their finances exhausted and the house still needing major repairs, they were becoming overwhelmed.

Rodents were getting through holes in the floor of their daughter's bedroom. The situation was so bad that she had to sleep in her parent's room! The kitchen base cabinets were unusable because the bottoms rotted away and became infested by rodents. Every room in the house needed work on the floors, windows, walls, doors, or all of the above. New issues kept propping up including a leaky water heater, loss of electricity to several outlets and a malfunctioning oven, all within a few weeks. They really needed a hand and we were excited to give them one... **but the project definitely didn't start out as planned!**

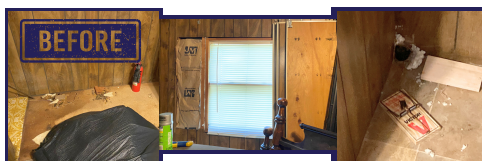
On the eve of our mission group's arrival, tragedy struck. The couple were involved in a motorcycle accident that left Tanner bedridden with a shattered leg. Unfortunately, this wouldn't be the family's only misfortune...

Our volunteers sprung into action, quickly building a ramp so Tanner could get to his doctor's appointment that afternoon! From there, they worked tirelessly to complete the repairs and by the end of the first week, the transformation was amazing! With new flooring, a fresh coat of paint and even new furniture, their daughter finally had her own room!

When our next mission group arrived to continue the work, tragedy struck again! The mail carrier hit Heidi's vehicle. She called Tanner and he immediately jumped out of bed and dragged himself to his truck to "help his girls." Although everyone made it home safely, they all rode back in Heidi's damaged car because Tanner's truck broke down and wouldn't start!

Fortunately, things got better from that point on. The electrical issues were fixed by a local electrical company who volunteered their work and, with the help of two more mission groups, the Clayburn's house is now dry, safe, and warm, with new windows, doors, floors and a functioning kitchen!

On behalf of the Clayburns and the two dozen additional families we served this year, Thanks for making a difference!!



What's the best thing you've ever built?

Countless student volunteers have asked me that question and I usually run through my mental catalog of our biggest projects and pick one with a good story behind it.

In March, I got the same question, but had an epiphany and said "HOPE!" Rewarded with an eyeroll, I was left alone to ponder and started liking my answer even more!

When we complete our work on a family's home, and they in turn help someone else, hope is built.

When young volunteers witness the transformation of a home and recognize the positive impact of their labor, it builds hope.

Even adults with a pessimistic outlook can become hopeful by the realization they made a difference in someone's life.

We see it all the time!

Why does hope matter? It matters because hope inspires action!

Over the years, many have shared with us how their experience with Good Neighbors ignited a passion for serving others in their community and beyond. By working with us, they discovered their ability to make a difference and acted upon it!

I'm very grateful for your partnership! Together, we've built hope into the lives of nearly 10,000 people. I can only imagine the incredible things their hope will achieve!

Blessings & Thanks,
Jason Benedict
 - President



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

Double Impact!!

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

- Helping hard-working families who need a hand-up
- Engaging volunteers 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 what our volunteers take away from the experience can be equally life changing and hope-building!

What I'll remember most from my mission week?

Watching the kids bond and build confidence as they do God's will, plus learning how to literally build a room from scratch!

Adult, New Jersey

It was safe, fun & well organized. I connected with classmates I didn't know well or never met, and I felt safe to open up & talk about faith.

Student, Georgia

Seeing the impact on our group of kids. It was an eye & mind opening experience for them.

Adult, Kentucky

I'll always remember the before and after, and we did it!

Student, Texas

I've made relationships this week that will last forever!

Student, Minnesota

Building relationships and getting to work hard in a way that blessed others. The family was great, the work was rewarding and challenging and I felt like we did what we set out to do.

Adult, Maryland

Thank you!

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 this year -

YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE

MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT US!!



More Questions Visit:
<https://www.freewill.com/learn/ways-to-donate-to-charity>

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

A Blessing to OUR little family

We would like to give a really big, heart-felt THANKS to the donors and volunteers who helped repair our facilities last year including:

Office Repairs

- fixing the leaky roof and replacing the water damaged ceiling.
- replacing our semi-operational florescent lights with new LED fixtures.
- Organizing literally tons of donated supplies



Lodge Repairs

- replacing the weathered and dangerous stairs leading up the hill to our cabins.
- replacing the collapsing fire pit
- pouring a new concrete dining room floor



We're a small organization and 100% of our staff are bi-vocational so, much like the families we serve, we often get overwhelmed juggling our jobs, our families and ministry work. **Sometimes, we need help too.**

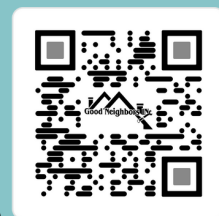
Thanks for having our back last year! Most of our mission groups sent one of their teams to help at our office or lodge - and they did amazing work, enabling us to help more families!

One out of three families we assist only need materials for their home repair - they can do the work themselves. Our volunteers helped sort through and organize literally tons of locally donated materials so they could be easily found and given out to families in need!

The work on our lodge was a huge deal too! We even had a father and son who travelled all the way from Seattle, WA to spend their Spring Break transforming our lodge into a safer, more functional and more enjoyable place for our groups to stay!

From our little Good Neighbors family, thanks for the help and hope you gave us. You're a Blessing!!

HELP US REACH OUR 12X2024 GOAL



SCAN ME

We are still a few short of our goal of getting 12 new monthly supporters by 2024 and you could be just the person we need!

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

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

WWW.GOODNEIGHBORS-INC.ORG

Facebook: Good Neighbors Appalachia

Instagram: @goodneighborsapp

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 501(c)3 charity.
Contributions are tax deductible.