



www.goodneighbors-inc.org  
 P.O. Box 640  
 Staffordsville, KY 41256  
 (606) 887-0082  
 Facebook:  
 Good Neighbors Appalachia



❄️ Winter 2018

## YOU make a difference!

*"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Winston S. Churchill*



**Impossible?  
 Probably Not...  
 Give it a Shot!!!**

What Good Neighbors does, in just a couple words, is BUILD CONFIDENCE.

**This underlying principle exists in everything we do** – sometimes planned, sometimes out of necessity, but it is engrained in every cotton-thread of our work shirts... from our interaction with our volunteers, to our staff, to the families we serve...and to our donors too.

When a first-time student-volunteer nervously uses a power saw to cut a board... the initial feeling is very different than the level of confidence that occurs (a few days & a hundred cuts later) when they see a home transformed because of their work.

When a new staff member views a major project for the first time, knowing a wonderful family trusts them with their home...it's daunting, but a few weeks later...wow! They see a finished product their leadership helped to create!

When the families we assist understand we are helping them because we know they will carry-on our mission to help their neighbors-in-need... it may seem surreal due to their situation, but when their homes are repaired and they start helping others (and teaching their kids to do the same)...Epic!

The same goes for our donors who give funds towards our work... The \$ always seem to go so much further than you could ever fathom. Thank you!

It's real, it's amazing, and we're Blessed to work together with you to make it happen!

*Jason Benedict*

- President

Major home repair is what we do, and the following case was definitely no exception... From foundation, floors, roof, walls (interior/exterior), adding-on a room; we did some construction work! **What really matters**, however, is how our involvement affects a family long-term. A year later, here's what one had to say:

"Good neighbors was such a wonderful experience for my family. My children and I made friends with many of the volunteers who revisited us this summer.

Each person made such a difference in our lives. I don't think they understand how grateful we are for their help, friendship, and impact they had in our lives.

My family asked for help from Good Neighbors due to falling on hard times when my fiancé was laid off from the mines and was unable, for a lengthy amount of time, to find gainful employment locally.

We had been remodeling on our home off and on prior to the lay-off as we saved money back. We were able to stay afloat, but unable to make enough headway to afford repairs that were needed for our home.

I heard about the Good Neighbors Program and applied. When I received word that we were going to get help, I felt a weight lifted off of my shoulders.

We loved our volunteers, they became like family to us. Many volunteers and I still correspond via Facebook.

Good Neighbors was such a God-sent to our family. In the year since, we have been able to save back and made more improvements to our home. **My kids have been donating to charity**, they learned how to humbly give back through our experience. We are planning to volunteer at the local shelter soon.

Good Neighbors impacted our lives far beyond home repairs, they affected our hearts. We will forever be great full for Good Neighbors.

I am almost finished with my first semester back at school and so far so good. Graduating in December 2019 if all goes smooth. Thanks so much,

-April Blair



**THIS PAST YEAR IN NUMBERS:**

**83** People now live in dryer, safer and warmer housing  
**12,529** Hours were served by Good Neighbors' volunteers



### From a student-volunteer's perspective:

Recently I went on my third trip to Kentucky, and, as always, was more than excited to spend the week helping others. This time my group was assigned to a woman named Brenda who needed her roof done. Toiling away in the hot sun proved to be difficult, but I am grateful for the opportunity as it taught me more about working hard to serve a goal greater than myself.

After the long days, we spent time cliff jumping, touring local museums, dancing at a hoedown, sharing our experiences, picnicking with our Kentucky families, and overall enjoying the time we had with each other and the beautiful Kentucky landscape.

For me, the trip means everything as I get the pleasure to serve God and experience His presence in so many ways. This year the vast beauty of the Kentucky night sky, the humility of the folks working for Good Neighbors, Inc., and the kindness of Brenda, a widowed wife, serving us lunch were perfect examples of how the Father displays his love through creation, the generous fruits of the Holy Spirit, and Christ himself in his acts of selfless love.

Overall, it was another successful mission where God expertly floods joy into my heart in the wonderful ways he works. I cannot wait until next year!

- Josh Fitzgerald  
Volunteer, NJ



Join us in 2019  
For an unforgettable &  
rewarding experience  
[www.goodneighbors-inc.org](http://www.goodneighbors-inc.org)

### A Special Thank You to our 2018 Business Sponsors!

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Jeffrey Grounds Photography | Lowes              |
| P.S. Vanhoose Lumber        | BB&T               |
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| R.L.S. Life Group           | Givan's Salon      |
| Rustic Buffalo              | Memories of Home   |

And an additional Special Thanks to all of you who gave personally – we couldn't do this without you!!!

### A Tribute to Tom, a True Friend.

With the absolute fondest of memories, our entire staff - past and present – remembers Tom Hummer; our friend, 'family', inspiration and a man who worked hard and quietly lived-out his faith during his life.

In 2007, when Good Neighbors was only 2-years old and about to begin our second summer-mission season, our materials were spread between 5 different locations (we had just a 1-room, 0 bathroom, 240sq ft. office., but a lot of heart)

We were receiving calls from members of our community, willing to donate building materials, but had to decline in several cases because there was no room to store them! Supplies were being stuffed in people's sheds, garages, and homes; many times with limited access.

After pursuing several options, Good Neighbors answered an ad listing a warehouse for-rent. Initially, the asking price was double our allotted budget... but when the situation seemed impossible, a "God-Thing" happened!

The owner of the property, Tom Hummer, graciously worked out an agreement that fit our budget!

Our office and warehouse immediately grew by nearly 15x (and is now 20x+) compared to our previous location.

For Tom, this was just one of the many times he chose to give for the betterment of others, but to the dozens of staff, hundreds of families and thousands of volunteers who have been Blessed through the use of this facility, it is a really big deal! We will miss him a bunch, but Tom's life was well lived and his legacy is noble.



Tom and Jason outside the warehouse, 2007

### Our **WORK:** Good Neighbors, Inc. is a 501(C)(3) charity Who:

Assists **employed** people, whose self-sufficiency is threatened by a specific incident of **major home repair need**

#### What we do:

Provide necessary repairs as a **one-time-only event**, using labor from volunteer groups from across the nation  
We 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, references 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. is a 501 c3 charity. Contributions are tax-deductible



Repairing Homes, Restoring Hope  
Since 2005

Please Mail Donations to:

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

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 will give the gift of Hope through:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **A One-time Donation of**

**\$** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$** \_\_\_\_\_/month

## **OR...**

\_\_\_\_\_ **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**