



Good Neighbors Inc.

P.O. Box 640
Staffordsville, KY 41256
(606) 887-0082

REPAIRING HOMES &
RESTORING HOPE
FOR WORKING-POOR
FAMILIES

President's Log Hindsight in 2020:

From the time COVID hit through the end of August, it literally felt like my world was turned upside down and I was hanging on, trying to maintain control of the situation.

- In just over a week,
- COVID concerns caused us to cancel a project right before our group arrived
- My car broke down when I was about to drive to New Jersey
- Our Minnesota project leads were not panning-out
- Just before our group's arrival, we realized the deck wrapping around our bunk house had rotted so bad our feet went through.

I was mentally exhausted! Looking back, however, I could've let go of so much anxiety, stress and worry by exercising a little more faith!

Because my car broke, I rented a minivan. It ended-up playing a necessary role in delivering building materials needed by the group!

The Rotted Deck was replaced by the crew previously assigned to the cancelled project

The last-minute project-uncertainty resulted in an all-star team of Minnesota-based family and friends who made it happen – from beginning to end!

Because 2020 seems to be a fitting time for hindsight – I hope you take a minute to look back on the year and see God at work in your lives!

"May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, The foresight to know where you are going, And the insight to know when you have gone too far" – Irish Blessing

With Thanks,

Jason Benedict

Navigating the Pandemic as Doers...

January 2020 was awesome! Volunteers from Georgia, Pennsylvania and Kentucky worked with us to serve 3 families in need of major home repairs including one with first-time running water and sewer! With much optimism, we were preparing for our best Spring and Summer seasons ever...

February sure killed that buzz! As our Spring-Break groups began cancelling their trips, we watched our country become gripped in fear as people on the East Coast began dying from the Corona Virus. Stories from our volunteers and board members brought home the seriousness of the pandemic with nurses like Jane who, at 8 months pregnant and working directly with COVID patients, **felt fortunate** to find a mask her husband had used while working around the house (her co-workers had no masks)...

What could we DO?

Fortunately, we had resources that could help nurses like Jane and many others on the Front-Lines fighting the Virus or serving with major risks. In total, we provided over 5,000 N-95 masks to those who needed them most, reaching shortages in 14 states, with special attention to the NY/NJ area where several of our volunteers work in direct contact with the virus and to the Responders serving the victims of the deadly tornadoes that smacked Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee.



While still looking forward to a strong summer of volunteers repairing homes in Kentucky, it became clear some groups would not be traveling - we decided to offer a back-up plan in the case our groups were unable to travel to Kentucky... **It turned out to be a pretty important decision!**

Our only summer mission group travelled to Kentucky from North Carolina ready to serve, and they rocked-it!!



In the week following our work in Kentucky, I traveled to New Jersey to be part of Good Neighbors' inspired local mission projects through St. Joseph's Catholic Church, as well as celebrate the accomplishments of the previous week by St. Matthew's. Their work made an impact on their communities and brought the youth together to show God's love and build relationships! One valuable lesson I learned was: It is possible to haul 71 twelve-foot decking boards in a minivan!!

Following our trip to Jersey, we packed two vehicles so full of tools and supplies that they nearly dragged on the ground - then headed off to Minnesota to work with an amazing crew of staff members and three awesome church groups from St. Lukes, Prince of Peace and Trinity Lutheran to accomplish 3 large-scale projects in Minneapolis, serving hard-working people in the wake of the riots, including a family-owned western-wear shop that was destroyed by rioters!!

While we all hope and pray things get back to normal soon, the anxiety of February turned into accomplishment by the end of Summer. We served others in need of a hand-up, strengthened communities, brought different cultures together and showed God's Love! The following letter from Jonna, a working-poor, Minneapolis widow we helped (and fell in love with), sums it up best:

I don't know how to put into words what this means to me. This has been a very difficult year and all of you have turned it around for me. God has found a need and he has supplied the people and tools to help. Thank you to Good Neighbors, St. Lukes, Prince of Peace churches and to all who worked on this project...

The students showed me there is much hope for future generations. God is there for anyone and everyone. It was such a joy to have everyone at my home. It felt like I was part of a large family. Thank you again for all you have done. By the way, Jinx misses everyone. He had so much fun.

I will find ways to help others who need it. May God bless and keep you all.

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Thessalonians 1:3

In God's love, Jonna Ellingboe

SERVING
WORKING-POOR
FAMILIES SINCE

2005

VOLUNTEERS GROUPS FROM
20 States
HAVE ATTENDED
GOOD NEIGHBORS MISSION

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



A Very Special Thanks

Your generosity, during such an uncertain year, made a rock-solid impact!!

Thank you to the mission teams who sent funds, even when they couldn't work with us in Kentucky.

Thank you to the businesses and individuals who continued to give when the future was uncertain.

Thank you to the volunteers and staff who braved the pandemic to serve those in need.

Your support has kept our Ministry alive and well!

May you all be Blessed by God like you have blessed others!



WAIT: Don't Cancel your Spring-Break Mission Trip!!

Serve Safe and COVID Conscious with Good Neighbor's Hybrid Mission Trips!

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**

The Impact of Your Support in East Kentucky

In addition to the many people impacted by our out-of-state work, we still made a difference to working-poor families in East Kentucky:

- **4 Families received Major Home Repairs** through the efforts of our volunteer groups and staff including a new roof, running water, a solid foundation and a functional kitchen!
- **15 additional East Kentucky Families received building materials necessary for dry, warm and functional homes** (ranging from a stove to an entire kitchen).



Thank you for showing God's love to hard-working families in our community!

A Shout Out To Our Summer Mission Groups!!

North Raleigh Christian Academy

We Rocked the Town!! This first-year group accomplished two large-scale projects for families in need including roofing in 100 degree heat, along with much needed help on our Volunteer Lodge and Warehouse!! [Click Here to See More!!](#)



St. Matthew

After 12 years of making a difference for families in East, KY, the St. Matt's adults and students teamed-up to assist families in their community!!

[Click Here to See More!!](#)

St. Joseph

Between Helping a wonderful Retirement Home and an Educational Farm, combined with daily Spiritual insights/challenges from Fr. Andrew, this group both boosted their community and gained valuable insights and friendships!!

[Click Here to See More!!](#)



St. Lukes and Prince of Peace

With an Amazing Crew of People from the church I was raised-in (as well as an awesome partner church), We Rocked-It for both a wonderful Hispanic-Family whose business was destroyed during the riots, along with a hard-working widow who was literally freezing in her home!!

[Click Here to See More!!](#)



Trinity Lutheran

As a first-year group, COVID tossed a monkey-wrench in their plans to serve in East, KY – but we made do! We rocked-out several construction projects to help a ministry serving the homeless through food, outreach and opportunities for self-sufficiency.

[Click Here to See More!!](#)





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
- ☐ 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