



Appalachia Service Project
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Appalachia Service Project to dedicate four homes for wildfire victims in Sevier County, Tennessee.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (May 30, 2018)—On Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 2 p.m. Appalachia Service Project (ASP) will dedicate four newly-constructed homes in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. ASP is building 25 new homes as a part of their disaster recovery efforts in Sevier County after the 2016 wildfires.

“As we approach the half-way mark of our work here in Sevier County, we were blessed to be continually welcomed by this community as our first 11 homes were built and we look forward to our continued partnership as we build the next 14 homes here,” comments ASP’s New Build Tennessee Coordinator, Will Crumley.

These homes will go to four members of the Gatlinburg community, including Genie Brabham and her son, who lost their previous home to Hurricane Katrina and now this one to the wildfires. Another recipient is Josh Maples, a Gatlinburg native along with his father, Ralph, who works in the local hotel industry. Jimmy Clabo will receive his home next week, built on his family’s farm land. Jimmy’s father built the original house on the land that is currently farmed by all the Clabo family. ASP is honored to rebuild one of the houses on this land. Finally, a renter during the time of the fire, Veronica (Wendy) Rocchietti, will become a first-time homeowner.

ASP will begin the next phase of construction, breaking ground on an additional eight homes this June and July, with plans to have these families home by August. Construction of the final six homes begins in July and will be completed by December. ASP still has three homes available, and any fire effected resident who lost their home in the wildfires is invited to apply by June 1st. ASP seeks funding for the renters who lost homes in the fires, and if anyone would like to make a donation, they are invited to contact Luke Ray at (423) 268-0240. ASP also seeks skilled local volunteers to work on these projects. You may contact TNSevier@asphome.org for volunteer information.

Partners for the 25 homes ASP has committed to building in the next year include Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church, Mullican Flooring, Volunteer East Tennessee, Mullican Flooring, Cherokee Partners, AmeriCorps, American Red Cross of East Tennessee, Dollywood Foundation, Tennessee Housing Development Authority, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Sugarland Distillery, and Mountain Tough Recovery Team.

Mountain Tough Recovery Team continues to be the lead recovery organization, accepting applications from families seeking site cleanup, home repair, new home construction and

individualized recovery assistance related to the Sevier County, TN wildfires in November 2016. To apply, visit Mountain Tough's website (www.mountaintough.org) and complete the pre-application or call the Mountain Tough office at 865-436-8112. Volunteers and donors interested in helping with site cleanup, replacement home construction and home furnishings may visit <http://www.mountaintough.org/i-want-to-help/> for details about how they can get involved.

ASP has experience helping communities rebuild after disasters. In 2012, ASP built 25 homes for families who had lost their homes to massive flooding in Washington County, Tennessee. In 2016, ASP launched a multi-year project to help rebuild homes in Greenbrier County, West Virginia and surrounding areas for families whose homes were destroyed by flooding. ASP has completed 67 homes for low-income families in West Virginia.

HOME DEDICATION DETAILS

Sevier County Home Dedications for Houses #8-11

June 5, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

68 Roaring Fork Road

Gatlinburg TN 37738

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ABOUT APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

Appalachia Service Project (ASP), is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. Since 1969, ASP volunteers have been making homes warmer, safer and drier for families in need in Central Appalachia and providing life-transforming experiences for everyone involved. In recent years ASP has expanded its outreach to include building new homes for low-income families whose homes were destroyed by fire or flooding and others whose homes are beyond repair. This year ASP will have more than 16,000 volunteers working in five Central Appalachia states helping nearly 600 families with home repairs and new construction.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit ASP's Newsroom (<http://asphome.org/newsroom>) for a fact sheet about Appalachia Service Project, downloadable press releases, photos, and other information.