



2021 ASP TEAM

Rockford United Methodist Church (RUMC) has participated in Appalachia Service Project (ASP) for 32 consecutive years. They alternate each year between KY, TN, VA, and WV.

This year the Team, consisting of four crews and two floaters (13 youth and 15 adults), went to West Charleston, West Virginia. This was the first time the group has been in an urban setting (usually working up in the hollers) where the homes we worked on were only 5-10 minutes away from the ASP Center. The homelessness and boarded up homes within the city was eye opening.

RUMC's Sewing Ladies made quilts for each of the families for their renovated homes. We stayed in an OLD downtown church and it served as an excellent Center (where some of the new youth did chores for the very first time!). The other church at the Center was from Plymouth, Michigan.

The 2021 theme was "**Onward**" – encouraging us to keep doing God's work and never grow weary of doing good.

One week each year the RUMC youth and adults go out of their comfort zone in order to work on poverty-level homes making them warmer, safer, and drier for the less fortunate. Lots of fun and learning construction skills is always a bonus.

CREW 1



Cole Johnson, Blake Murphy, Holly Berkstresser, Jerrad Reickard, Allison Everhart-Deckard, Ericka VanderLende

Crew 1 worked on an inner-city home that was for a West Charleston police officer and his family (through a program that incentivized police officers to live in their community). ASP, through a grant, provided the labor.

The crew was able to install insulation and hang drywall in two of the upstairs bedrooms and then mud and sand a third bedroom.

When given the quilt, the homeowner got emotional and told the crew that one other time in his life he had been given a quilt, and that was when he had heart surgery as a child (and he still has that quilt).

CREW 2



Larry Lindemer, Devin Cook, Colin Murphy, Jake Lindemer (squatting), Carol Murphy, Mara Sweeney, Emily Smith

Crew 2 worked on the home of an elderly woman whose roof was leaking. They swept and washed the existing leaking rubber roof on a mobile home prior to installing SBS, a roofing material made of asphalt and rubber, to the entire roof surface, including a section of roof which had been replaced with OSB by the previous week's crew. They also installed fascia and termination bar around the entire home.

The homeowner's neighbor lost her husband the week before our crew was there. When the crew gave the homeowner flowers at the end of the week, they also gave flowers to the recent widow and she really needed and appreciated that.

CREW 3



Grace Smith, Teri Sweeney, Katie Bird, Jason Wendtland, Emily Smith, Chip Stevers

Crew 3 worked on a stucco home for a woman that the home had very little insulation. They wrapped the home in insulation and then put up vinyl siding (thus called a hug home). They also painted the stone wall of the basement and the chimney. The peaks were high and the lot line close to the house, which made reaching the peaks very difficult. Before the week was over, the homeowner noticed that the air conditioner was not running near as much as it was before the home was hugged. 😊

Brooke, one of the floaters, did several electrical jobs at this home.

The homeowner's favorite colors were lime green, pink, and burgundy, so besides giving her a welcome mat and wind chime with those colors for her updated home, the quilt from RUMC happened to be those same colors!

CREW 4



Rick Schroder, Audrey Wendtland, Kevin Sweeney, Kyle Sweeney, Diana Stevers, Brandon Roach

Crew 4 replaced the roofing over the bathroom and laundry room of the house. Due to leaking it was about to collapse. After a complete roof demo, they discovered that several rafters needed to be replaced also. After doing that, they installed new decking, metal roofing, fascia, and soffit. They also adjusted the back door so that it would open completely.

The homeowner was shy at first, but by the end of the week she wanted to be included in some selfies with the crew. The lap blanket made by the church ladies was a hit and brought a few tears to all.

FLOATERS



Ruth Reickard and Brooke Kaule

Brooke and Ruth delivered (with Brooke's truck) the supplies that were needed each day to each crew's site so they would have the materials necessary to complete their work each day. They also scoped out ice cream shops for evening visits for ice cream each night after a hot day of work (an ASP tradition).

Brooke also did several electrical jobs at the home of Crew 3. He consulted with each crew about various matters throughout the week. He grilled hamburgers and hotdogs at the Thursday Night Picnic also. He was also 95% patient with Ruth!

Ruth is the OSHA Supervisor of the Team and the Team Photographer (and also cut up watermelon for the picnic).

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and spread the good news of Jesus Christ.**

