

## Christmas in April Happens All Year Long

The mission of Christmas in April\*Calvert County is to preserve and revitalize houses assuring that low income homeowners live in warmth, safety and independence. Although the last Saturday in April is always Christmas in April\*Calvert County, organizations such as churches, school organizations (NJROTC, Honor Society, Clubs), and businesses such as Dominion Energy Cove Point, Exelon Calvert Cliffs, Cave to Castle Remodeling and organizations such as Harvest Fellowship and Patuxent Habitat work on projects all year long. There are so many homes that need help that not all can be accomplished on the last Saturday in April. Some projects are so large that they require a number of weekends or several years to complete.



This year, Christmas in April\*Calvert County worked on 44 houses, some of which were completed before April 28<sup>th</sup> as some crews were not available, not enough crews or sponsors for homes, or there were emergency repairs.

One of the houses this year was owned by a Korean War veteran and work was done every weekend in April and also on the last Saturday of April. Working on this home on April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, partnering with **Saint John Vianney Church** in preparation for painting, scraping paint off and making minor repairs to the exterior of home and repairing the kitchen floor. On April 14<sup>th</sup> partnering with Calvert Middle School National Jr Honor Society in painting the exterior of house and yard work for the home in Saint Leonard. There was some ladder work for adult volunteers only. It required a lot of work to bring it up to habitable living conditions. Some of the work required was scraping and repainting the exterior, checking roof and see if it could be repaired instead of replacing, bathroom and bathtub repairs, living room ceiling, bathroom floor, and outside landscaping and clearing. And finally on April 28<sup>th</sup>, finishing the bathroom floor and touch ups. It took many volunteers and several weekends to produce some nice results. Groups that worked on this house were All Saints Episcopal Church, St Nicholas Lutheran, St John Vianney and Calvert Middle School. Pat Pringle, Exelon, coordinated the volunteers. The house was sponsored by Habitat for Humanity.

Heading over to the Twin Beaches, Northern High School was busy with 4 volunteers and 2 from Southern High School, with House Captain Kailee, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader leading the way. They were repairing the porch, removing the fence and taking care of the landscaping.

Next stop was on Skinners Turn Road, where House Captain James Brown was leading volunteers from Grace Brethren Church. They were replacing a section of roof over addition, treating deck and working on kitchen cabinets. HELP sponsored this home.

A second stop on Skinners Turn Road, where Christmas in April\*Calvert County's President Glenn Phelps daughter, Laura Phelps, was the House Captain, leading Christian Fellowship of Athletes from Northern High School. They were busy scraping and painting a block house, repairing a 10x6 foot section of roof and adding support for front porch railing.

The last house was back at the home in St Leonard to see the transformation. Check out the picture gallery below to see volunteers and work they do on behalf of Christmas in April\*Calvert County.

For information on Christmas in April\*Calvert County, volunteer, donate or sponsor, please visit the website:  
<http://www.christmasinaprilcalvertcounty.org/>