

Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard



BUILDING HOPE IN APPALACHIA

Over the course of the past 18 summers, teams of volunteers from St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Immaculate Conception in Somerville, and church and school groups from around the country have embarked on missions that have changed their lives and those of the families that they have served in the Wayne County area of West Virginia. These individuals participated in the Wayne County Work Camp, located in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia. Wayne County is a rural area with rugged mountains and deep valleys, which is typical of much of Appalachia: rich natural resources in timber and coal, and rugged, hilly land, traversed by winding roads, often sharing the narrow valley floors with creeks, which frequently overflow their banks.

The Wayne County Work Camp is one of the programs of the Cabwaylingo Appalachian Mission, a 501(c)(3) charity operated from the Huntington Presbyterian Chapel. The Camp provides a service experience for youth, ages 16 and up, and adults who desire a “hands-on” opportunity to put their faith to work, by serving those who are in need. Wayne County provides ample opportunities to demonstrate stewardship to others - more than 20% of the residents live below the poverty line and the median household income is \$38, 311. Unemployment rates easily exceed 25%, following the decline in the coal industry.



The mission of the program is to glorify God; to share the love of Christ by addressing the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the people; to work together to make homes warm, safe and dry; and to experience

Christian community by living, working, and worshipping together.

This year’s mission trip will run from June 10th to 16th, and it is a great opportunity to show your faith and love for Jesus Christ by answering the call to service.

A question frequently asked by those interested in this mission effort is: “Who funds the Camp?” Simply stated, it is the generosity of the members of our parish, and the participants themselves. So while it is true that only a small number of people might make the 600-mile journey down to Wayne County, there are a far greater number of supporters, through their generosity and donations, that have helped to make this mission possible, year after year. In addition, each participant in the Camp is expected to contribute a percentage of the cost of building supplies and materials that will be used throughout the course of the week, as well as a small portion



BUILDING HOPE IN APPALACHIA (CONTINUED)

of lodging and transportation expenses.

Those considering making the trip shouldn't let the scope or complexity of the projects deter them - 80% of the volunteers on jobsite teams have never swung a hammer, hung sheetrock or built a deck. But, there is enough talent and support available to work with the teams to accomplish what sometimes seems impossible. Volunteers are surprised that quite often, the most important contribution they provide is holding a hand, offering encouragement, or listening to a life story – for the families being helped.

If you are interested in learning how you can help, representatives from the Appalachian Ministry will be in the Narthex at all of the masses on the weekends of May 19th/20th and May 26th/27th. Please stop by to learn more about the Appalachian Mission and how you can help.

Parishioners may also pick up a “Saw Tag” and envelope and help support our efforts. Every dollar contributed goes directly to the poor we serve. Finally, a great way that all of St. Bernard can support the mission is to keep the team members and the families of Wayne County, WV in your prayers.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

Phil Guastella: guastph@gmail.com or Ted Bell: tbell2@optonline.net

WELCOME JULIAN URIBE!

The Stewardship Council welcomes seminarian Julian Uribe to St. Bernard for the summer.

Julian, a native of Colombia, joins us from St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA.

Join us in welcoming him to our parish!



Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?

Contact Mark Dransfield (dransfam@gmail.com) by calling 908-526-6649)

