

Mission Kentucky

We just came back from another successful mission trip to the Appalachian coal country in eastern Kentucky. Fourteen volunteers completed five construction projects, three in homes and two at the mission, all of which help St. Vincent’s Mission lift the residents of eastern Kentucky out of poverty.

Charles (right) has been disabled for 20 years from a horrific accident, in which a drunk driver hit the ambulance he was driving. We put a new steel roof on his manufactured home and replaced his porch steps.



During a heavy rain a few months ago, a strip mine pond on the mountain above Gary’s home let loose, pouring three feet of rushing water against the back of his house, rotting out his kitchen floor. We repaired five floor joists and installed a new floor and kitchen sink cabinet.



Penny lives with her brother, Mike. Last spring she was lying in bed during a storm when a tree fell on the house, destroying the kitchen and bedroom ceilings, showering her with sheet rock. She escaped with only scratches. Others before us repaired the roof and the ceiling joists. We did the sheetrock, repaired the floor joists, and installed vinyl laminate in the bedroom and vinyl tile in the kitchen. When Penny saw the results, she wept tears of joy. Then we gave Penny her first-ever lesson in painting, finishing the two rooms with cheery yellow paint.



We also helped St. Vincent's Mission finish its new Thrift Store in time for Christmas shopping, by prepping the walls and completing the suspended ceiling.



More Home Repairs

Recently, a Manahawkin man realized that a struggling neighbor needed a wheelchair ramp, so he connected the neighbor to Starve Poverty. We were able to provide the materials and the labor, so that now he can enter and leave his house more easily. In the last two months we also did repairs for a 93-yr old widow in Pinewood Estates and installed a new roof and repaired a deck for an elderly woman in Manahawkin.



Nutrition Class

On November 8, Robert Hildebrandt, Registered Dietitian, sat down with some of our neighbors to talk about nutrition and healthy eating choices. Robert is part of the Diabetes Management Center at Southern Ocean Medical Center. Education programs like this are an important way we help our neighbors refocus their health and wellness goals.

Chowder Cook-off 2024



This annual October festival is in its 34th year, now organized by the Beach Haven Chamber of Commerce in partnership with The Hunger Foundation of Southern Ocean County. Both days feature live music, children's activities, and a Merchant Mart. On Sunday, local restaurants compete to make the best red and white chowders. Volunteers from SPI worked at the cook-off on October 5 and 6. The proceeds from the event support Beach Haven parks and local food pantries, including Starve Poverty.

Fresh from Ramblin' Sol Farm

This past summer and fall, our food pantry was blessed to receive an abundance and variety of fresh, organic produce every week from the amazing **Ramblin' Sol Farm** in Cream Ridge, NJ. We were so touched by the excitement in the community as our neighbors eagerly shared how to prepare some of the more unique veggies, like bok choy, kohlrabi, fennel, and "garlic scapes". It shows how food can bring people together and enhance their cooking experiences.

It was heartwarming to see how everyone embraced these new foods and came together to enjoy something fresh and nutritious. We're grateful for the farm's generosity and for the joy it brought to so many.

"You can make a difference!"

A Final Word

We would like to close with a personal note from our Founder and CEO, Ron Fraser:

Dear Friends,

As the year draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible progress we've made together in our mission to eradicate poverty. With heartfelt gratitude, we celebrate the countless lives touched, thanks to the unwavering support of our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, community partners, and supporters like you. We have so much to be proud of, and we'd love to share some exciting milestones with you, as they wouldn't have been possible without your involvement.

Celebrating Volunteer Impact

Our volunteers continue to be the heart and soul of our organization. This year, an extraordinary 3,379 volunteer hours were dedicated to our food pantry alone, enabling us to serve 7,686 neighbors in need. This is truly a cause for celebration – every hour worked, every person helped, reflects the powerful impact of a community coming together.

In April, a team of twenty-one volunteers traveled to David, Kentucky, to support home repairs in the area's abandoned coal mining regions. Together, they completed four home renovations, and in November, another team of fourteen volunteers returned to complete three more. These incredible efforts added up to a total of 2,520 volunteer hours, and we can't thank these volunteers enough for their selflessness and dedication.

Locally, we completed twenty-four urgent home repairs, ranging from essential roof replacements to wheelchair ramps and bathroom renovations. These repairs gave hope to families living in challenging conditions, and we are proud to have contributed 250 volunteer hours to these urgent projects.

Across all of these initiatives, our volunteers gave a total of 6,649 hours of their time and energy. It's a

testament to the strength of community and the power of working together. Please join us in celebrating the difference we've made!

Gratitude for Your Generosity

We also want to acknowledge that none of this would be possible without the generous support of individuals like you. Your financial contributions, alongside the incredible volunteer hours, have helped us continue to provide these services at no cost to those who need them most. We rely 100% on donations, and every penny goes directly to supporting our neighbors in need. Through fundraising, we've been able to secure materials for home repairs and pantry services, making each gift an investment in lasting change.

As you reflect on the year ahead, we invite you to consider making a meaningful contribution to our mission. Whether it's a one-time gift or a commitment to monthly support, every donation helps us work towards a future where poverty is no longer a barrier to opportunity. All gifts are tax-deductible, and we will send year-end receipts to ensure you have the necessary documentation for your records.

Looking Ahead

As we enter the Christmas season, we thank God for His continued faithfulness in providing for our every need through the support of generous individuals like you. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support and for being an essential part of this journey. Our prayer is that you and your loved ones are filled with peace, joy, and abundant grace during this season. Together, with God's guidance, we are making a lasting impact and helping to create a brighter future for all.

Rejoicing in His Service,

Ron Fraser

Founder, Starve Poverty

Next Mission to Kentucky: April 2025

We will return to Kentucky for the week of April 5-12, 2025. Mark your calendars and watch future newsletters and our website for further information. This is an opportunity for both skilled and unskilled people to be involved in making a difference. We also need at least one person to assist our cook. If you feel God is leading you in this direction, please contact us soon for a personal conversation.



Supporting Starve Poverty

Thank you all for your solid support in the past. How grateful we are for every donation we receive, from the smallest to the largest. Every dollar makes a difference! We praise God for providing our every need and how He uses each of you in that process. As you can imagine, 2024 has been a tough year for non-profit organizations everywhere, including SPI. Please consider an end-of-year gift to prepare us for 2025.

To give by mail, send a check to

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99 Route 72
Barnegat NJ 08005

To give online, go to

StarvePoverty.org/donate.html

Please Contact Us

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