

April

Highlights

2024



Kentucky Mission: April 2024

Twenty-one volunteers converged on David, Kentucky, from New Jersey, western Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and South Carolina. We came by pickup, van, plane, or car, towing work trailers, a travel trailer, and a very large smoker! This was our biggest team ever, including five first-timers. We came to fix homes for low-income families in Appalachian coal country – and to drip the love of Christ on them by every possible means.



We built a home addition that the owners had started but could not finish because of health problems. We also helped finish the exterior of a house that replaced

one that had burned down. We built an interior wall at the St. Vincent Mission and finished installing a laminate floor in yet another home.

Joe and Terry's story

Joe DeLong is a retired mason; his wife, Terry Hays, is a retired social worker (who now works at St. Vincent's Mission).

Four years ago, Terry's mother's home burned down. Terry and Joe built her a new home in a "hollow" called Jim Thompson's Farm. They started by ordering a house-sized "shed" with windows and doors, but no interior. Joe and Terry did the interior work themselves, and the craftsmanship is amazing. It took them a year. Then they decided to build a house for themselves next door, to better look after her mother.

They designed their home as two smaller sheds connected by a 16'x20', two-story middle section. They purchased the sheds, moved into them, and began construction. In the meantime, the longer shed contained the living room, kitchen, and bedroom; the other one contained the bathroom and storage.



Then disaster struck: Joe sustained an eye injury that required three surgeries. He already had emphysema, caused by brick dust; now he contracted pneumonia. Just a month before we arrived, his heart received a pacemaker. They had medical insurance, but they still had \$10,000 in medical bills to pay. They no longer had the ability to complete the house.

The Big Addition

Before his accident, Joe had built the foundation and floor of the addition and had started to frame the walls. He had also begun two “transition roofs” between the shed roofs and where the middle roof would be. The photo at the top of this newsletter is what we saw when we arrived.

By God’s grace we had brought three professional roofers, three other builders, and some experienced amateurs to the task. We started with the lumber that Joe had already purchased and added to it from the Mission’s warehouse of donated building supplies. Meanwhile, we sent a team to Terry’s mother’s burnt-out house to salvage four windows and a back door. A camera drone gave us a fresh perspective on the work. By the end of the third day, we had framed the addition and sheathed it (covered it with 4’x8’ sheets of chipboard).



Joe Delong was so happy with the work that after we left for the day, he washed and waxed our work trailer. It looked better than when it was brand new! We were concerned about the strain on his heart, but Terry said,

“If he had collapsed and died on the couch last night, he would have died happy!”

We had met our goal for the week, but since we still had three days left, we kept going! On Wednesday we covered the building with (generic) Tyvek to keep out the rain, then framed and installed the windows and doors. On Thursday we built a loft inside the back half of the addition, complete with staircase. That day we determined that there was vinyl siding available, so on Friday we covered the addition with siding (well, almost all of it). Then it was time to clean and pack up the tools, take a group photo, and say goodbye.



Clothing Donation

Two days before we departed for Kentucky, an older couple walked into Ron Fraser’s office and asked whether we accepted clothing donations. Ron said we would love to but we have no place to store them. They said that was too bad, because they had \$11,000 worth of brand-new clothing from a big box store to donate! Ron realized that we had plenty of space in our work trailer for it, so we took the clothes to Kentucky, where St. Vincent Mission will be able to offer the clothing in their Christmas Store to the people they serve!

The Bottom Line

Besides leaving Joe and Terry with a completed shell for their addition, we had many wonderful conversations with them. To top it off, some anonymous donors enabled us to give them \$1,000 to help with their

“You can make a difference!”

medical expenses! At Jackie's house, we shored up their front porch, closed up their carport wall, and installed a steel skirt around the whole home. We also finished the laminate floor at Melissa's house.

Next Mission: April 2025

We will return to David, Kentucky, April 5-12, 2025. Mark your calendars and watch future newsletters and our website for further information.

Renewed Funding from Wawa

Wawa Foundation has just renewed its monetary grant to SPI. This has again shown us God's faithfulness in supplying all our needs.



Did you know? According to Wikipedia, the Wawa chain's name comes from the site of the company's first milk plant near Wawa, Pennsylvania. The town name is in turn derived from the Ojibwe word *we'we* (pronounced "way-way") meaning snow goose, despite the company's image of a Canada goose.

"No Hungry Kids" Program OK'd

Our new program, to provide restaurant gift cards to kids who are at risk of going hungry, has been approved by the SPI board and by our partner, the Ocean County Sheriff's Department. It will get under way as soon as we identify a volunteer to co-lead the program (no experience necessary). Please contact Ron Fraser if you are interested

Giving Opportunities

Thank you all for your solid support. So many of you are beyond generous with your time and your donations. SPI is funded entirely by donations and grants; we do not sell anything. Without you, we could not "Starve out Poverty". You truly are making a difference in so many lives.

If you would like to financially support specific projects, here are some of our current and future needs:

- Shipping container to store food: \$12,000
- Pavilion materials: \$10,000
- Project manager support: \$4,583/mo.
- Ongoing food pantry support
- Kentucky trip sponsorships
- Wherever needed

Here are two easy ways to donate:

1. See the "About Us" section on our website, www.StarvePoverty.org. Scroll down to the word DONATE, then click on your preferred giving option, and it will bring you to PayPal. You DO NOT need a PayPal account to donate this way.
2. Mail a check to
Starve Poverty International
6 Norwick Dr.
Forked River, NJ 08731.

In the memo, please tell us what you want to donate to.

Please also consider becoming a monthly or yearly donor, for example by scheduling it through your "Bill Pay" app. Every little bit helps, and we are so grateful for your support. If you would like to get involved, please reach out via email at info@starvepoverty.org. Thank you for all you do to help us help our community. "You are making a difference" one life at a time.

Starve Poverty International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.



Laminate flooring at Melissa's house.

Please Contact Us

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(secure donations here)

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