



Kentucky: Twelve of us drove to Kentucky in April to fix homes, working out of St. Vincent's Mission. Our main job was to build a long ADA ramp for Colson and Debbie Couch. The existing steps to the house were steep and uneven. Colson had fallen on them recently, twice. Because their house is perched on the side of a steep hill, they needed a ramp with a 10' elevation -- so it had to be 120 feet long! Amazing that no one got hurt. Besides working with us on the job, Colson and Debbie fixed a delicious lunch for us, two days in a row. The job was completed in 3½ days.



Left: A 72-year-old woman is caring for her wheelchair-dependent son, who was mostly trapped in his house by a 16" high threshold. We built a 10' boardwalk to get his wheelchair from the house to the driveway.



Right: Another woman needed a new chimney cap and a bit of caulk.



Our chef, who is also a welder, was stuck in the kitchen, alone all day, with a broken wrist. But when an intern who dropped by mentioned her interest in welding, he gave her some hands-on experience (right).



One night we invited the Mission's local community to join us for dinner, and had a great time making new friends. We also visited those we helped in October: Barbara Jean, Dawson, and the Ellis family. In God's perfect timing, we got to help Barbara Jean with a healthcare phone call. Sadly, we learned that Grandma Ellis had just passed away the week before. But they said she loved that ramp!



New Jersey: Amanda and her family, who attend Bayside Chapel, have just moved to Tuckerton, where their new home does not yet have a first-floor bedroom, and the bathroom door is too narrow for her wheelchair. Right now her bed is in the living room! SPI will build a 16x20 addition on the back of her house, which the state of New Jersey will equip with a ramp, electric doors, and other access features. We are expecting to see plans and a materials list any day now, at which time we will begin raising funds and scheduling construction.



SPI has joined **Barnegat Communities That Care (CTC)**, a coalition of organizations that serve the youth of Barnegat (as well as others). They soon put together a project where SPI volunteers are mentoring 7th and 8th grade students in the basics of construction. This was a great example of how the coalition works:

Barnegat Community Garden Project supplied the project and raised funds for the materials, **Barnegat Township** supplied the land and the compost, **Barnegat**

CTC worked with the schools to invite selected at-risk students, and we provided the equipment and the mentors! We will help the students build 4 more beds in June and a fence in August.



Updates

Stella, in Tuckerton: We finished work on Stella's house in December, when we insulated and closed in her ceiling and painted it. **Adriene, in Barnegat:** we fixed her furnace and replaced her water heater, as well as supplying her with firewood and a grocery gift card, courtesy of Bayside Chapel.

Urgent Need:

We are in need of a new tow vehicle for our local and Kentucky projects. Currently our vehicle is great for transporting volunteers, however it is not good for towing our trailer. The hills, terrain, and road conditions require a four-wheel drive, full size pickup truck to tow the trailer, transport volunteers and carry supplies in a safe manner. Would you consider praying about how you might be able to assist in this vehicle replacement project?

We are starting a three-year campaign for funding this project. The total cost of this project is \$43,000.00 of which we have a \$17,000 matching grant available to us. This means we need to raise \$26,000 to complete the project. You can help accomplish this with a one-time gift or with a once-a-month commitment over a three-year period. All donations are tax deductible, and you will be emailed a receipt in January of the following year. On a separate page we have attached a mail-in form for you to fill out and send back to us. Please select option 1 or option 2.

As always, we are faced with the rising costs of operating expenses and have appreciated your on-going support. We could not do all we do without your prayers, financial support, and volunteering!

Closing:

Our second trip to Kentucky was even better than the first, making several strong connections with staff, interns, other volunteers, and the families we served. We are looking forward to going back. We hope to return to Kentucky for the first week of November, when NJ schools are out. The trip will include both construction and children's ministry, making it a great opportunity for families to go together.

Running a non-profit organization provides us with a great opportunity to trust God with our finances. Since we do not have any goods for sale, we are relying solely on grants and donations. Here are the ways you can be part of this:

1. If you are a donor please continue in your generosity.
2. If you are not yet a donor, please consider partnering financially with us. No amount of support is too small.
3. Please pray for this ministry. Without God we have little hope.
4. Please prayerfully consider joining us on a mission trip. The rewards are unbelievable.

Thank you for making a difference,

Starve Poverty International



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