Christmas in April*Calvert County, Inc.

www.ChristmasInAprilCalvertCounty.org

Volume 14 | P.O. Box 2761 | Prince Frederick, MD 20678 | 410-535-9044 | Fall 2026

Christmas in April 2026: Helping Neighbors Stay in the Homes They Love

Every year, Christmas in April*Calvert County brings together volunteers, community partners, sponsors and skilled tradespeople with a simple but powerful goal: helping our neighbors live safely, independently and comfortably in the homes they love.

In 2026, that effort reached 59 homes and two nonprofit organizations, with volunteers tackling everything from critical safety repairs, accessibility improvements, plumbing, electrical work, landscaping and the countless smaller projects that can make a house safer, more functional and more comfortable.

Behind Every Number is a Person

In 2026, approximately 700 skilled and unskilled volunteers contributed approximately 12,000 volunteer hours to Christmas in April projects. Accessibility needs were addressed in almost 50 homes and projects.

Our projects may be measured in volunteer hours, houses, ramps, bathrooms, smoke detectors and repaired fences. However, the real measure of the work is what those improvements make possible.

These are stories about people being able to get out of their homes safely, bathe independently, do their laundry at home again, feel secure in their own homes and stop worrying about things they simply couldn't afford or physically manage themselves.

Sometimes the difference is a ramp. Occasionally it's a tree. For some, it's simply finding out there are people who care.

For a 97-year-old Navy veteran, a new ramp, porch improvements and other safety repairs made it easier for his family to take him on outings—to church or a trip to the store.

For another homeowner, an accessible bathroom and relocating a washer and dryer upstairs meant being able to do her own laundry without navigating basement stairs.

And for a senior widow, 15 volunteers spent 100 hours tackling a long list of projects—from electrical repairs and new lighting to fencing, raking years of accumulated leaves, cleaning gutters and pressure washing. But the work didn't stop there.

When volunteers discovered a dead tree that posed a threat to nearby utility lines, the area coordinator contacted SMECO and arranged to get the tree removed. He also helped find a used refrigerator to replace a leaking one that had damaged her kitchen floor.

The homeowner told us she felt *"so incredibly fortunate and grateful"* and described the experience as *"life changing."* She wrote that she still gets *"teary-eyed"* when she looks around at everything the volunteers did for her because she *"would never EVER have been able to do it on my own."*

That's Christmas in April.

The Work Continues—and So Do the Relationships

Of the 59 homes served in 2026, 34 were new to Christmas in April and 25 were homes the organization had worked on previously.

That repeat-home number is more meaningful than a mere statistic. When Christmas in April returns to a home, it reflects an ongoing relationship with a homeowner whose needs have changed over time. A ramp that makes it possible to enter and leave the house safely one year may be followed by a bathroom modification or other improvements in later years.

For some homeowners, Christmas in April isn't simply a one-day helping hand. It becomes part of the continuing effort to help them remain safely and independently in the homes they love. And for many, it’s the jump start they need—the encouragement and momentum to keep moving forward after the volunteers leave.

Since Christmas in April began keeping records in 1991, the organization has worked on approximately 1,272 homes and nonprofit projects in Calvert County. This includes returning to homes and projects when additional needs arose. That's more than three decades of neighbors helping neighbors and helping the organizations that help their neighbors.

A Community That Shows Up

Christmas in April doesn't do this work alone. It takes a community.

Our projects are made possible by an extraordinary network of churches and faith communities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, foundations, government agencies, skilled tradespeople, civic groups and individual donors and volunteers. Some provide financial support. Some provide materials or professional expertise. Some bring teams of volunteers. Some do several of these things at once.

Together, these partnerships create something much larger than the sum of their individual contributions: the ability for Christmas in April to continue helping Calvert County homeowners year after year.

And the work doesn't happen only in April. Christmas in April takes on projects throughout the year, including special Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving projects and acts quickly in urgent situations when a serious safety concern exists. We don’t just show up once a year. We're a community that keeps showing up. We don't just repair houses. We help people remain safely, independently and comfortably in the homes they love.

That's the heart of Christmas in April*Calvert County.



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Natalie Moore
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Dave Fondelier
James Jackson
Tom Miller
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Kim Stack
St. Nicholas Lutheran Church
Keith Williams
The Gratitude Team
Lorraine Joyner

Thank You Christmas in April*Calvert County Partners: Volunteers, Businesses, Churches, Organizations and Individuals, who donated money, material, time and skills for the 2026 work year.

A C Custom Construction
A H Hatcher
Adams Carpentry
America's Charity
Amy Drury
Atlas Flooring
BHE GT&S
Bin There Dump That
Bob and Janet Robertson
Bonnie Smithers
Brooks Family Team
Bridge Title
Brother Johnsons Septic
Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff
Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center
Calvert County Democratic Women's Club
Calvert County Department of Community Resources
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Calvert Retired School Personnel
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Clint and Tresa Ashley
Cove Point LNG
Danny's Floor Service
Dean Home Supply and Service Company
DCS Corporation
Friendship Community Baptist Church
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God's Bounty
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The Gratitude Team
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Our Lady Star of the Sea
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Systems Application and Technologies
The Baynet
W.R.A Storage Systems

Tentative Calendar 2026-2027

For more details, see website **www.christmasinaprilcalvertcounty.org.**

September 2026
September 30: Applications due for the 2027 Christmas in April year.

October 2026
House Selection Committee will visit the homes of the applicants.

November 2026
The Board tentatively approves the houses to be repaired for 2027.
Christmas in April will work on projects to celebrate Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving.

December 2026
House captains are assigned to recommended houses.
Christmas in April will work on projects to celebrate Giving Tuesday.

January/February 2027
Homeowners are informed of application decisions.
House captains visit approved homes to determine work scope and develop supply list.
Christmas in April will work on a project in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

March 2027
Preparations continue for the workday to be held the last Saturday in April.

April 24, 2027
Christmas in April Workday.

May 2027
Follow up contacts are made.

Throughout the year, donations are encouraged, sponsors and volunteers are recruited, applications are accepted, grants are applied for, emergency home repairs are completed, and the work continues to ensure low-income homeowners will live in warmth, safety, and independence.



The following gives a summary of the improvements made on each home and project in 2026.

"I don't think I could have made it through the winter with the deck and ramp as they were."
"I feel so much safer now. Everything is fantastic, just phenomenal."
"Christmas in April is the best thing that ever came to Calvert County."
"I am standing here with tears in my eyes. I have the time but not the money to repair my home."
"I smile more now and feel much lighter. Such a weight has been lifted."
"The new deck helps my parents go out and enjoy the day now."
"Knowing these things are done gives me one less thing to worry about."

Quotes from 2026 recipients.

House # 1 Volunteers from Lighthouse Fellowship Church, under the direction of Ben Dansberger, house captain, worked on this home belonging to an elderly couple. One of the homeowners had survived a double lung transplant and a stroke. They were in desperate need of a ramp for the wife to finally return to her house. A generous lady in Huntingtown donated a complete prefabricated ramp to Christmas in April. A Christmas in April team went to the ramp donor's house to disassemble the ramp and transport it to the other house location for assembly the next morning. A team from Lighthouse Fellowship Church then completely installed the ramp, which fit this application perfectly. It was a great project and the homeowner was very happy to have the ramp. This home was sponsored by SMILE.

House # 2 Joe Allen of E-1 Construction led a small team of volunteers to complete drywall repairs/replacement as a result of early storm damage to the home of this low-income couple. The homeowners were thankful to have this work done for them. This project was sponsored by Sneade's ACE Home Center and Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.

House # 3 Glenn Phelps led this team from Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church and former employees from the Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center to assist a senior United States Army Veteran and his wife. He has had two operations on his left leg and right knee. Volunteers readied the site on November 5th, digging footers and trimming overgrown trees, as they prepared for a larger team of volunteers to come the next day.

Upon arrival on November 6th, the crew promptly started pruning plants and trees, cutting grass, and removing decayed front porch rails and installing a new railing system. Two new LED light fixtures and one ceiling fan were also installed.

By mid-morning, parts of the team repaired and re-installed a failed back deck railing. Yard work continued throughout the day and many yard treasures were removed. By the end of the day, the team was thoroughly worn out but each enjoyed their first Veteran's Day project for the 2026 work year. The homeowner said, "*Christmas in April was great!"* They feel much safer in their home with these improvements. This project was sponsored by Cave to Castle Remodeling, Patuxent Habitat for Humanity, and the HELP Association.

House # 4 A very dangerous and lengthy ramp was in dire need of repair for this homeowner. Christmas in April came to the rescue with this team of former employees from the Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center, guided by Russell Bowie, house captain. On a seasonal November day, the team promptly removed all decking, handrails, and failed structural components. Once the structure was repaired and inspected, the team started to rebuild the deck and ramp. In a matter of hours, the deck, rails, and ramp were completed with new pressure treated wood. The homeowner enthusiastically reported, "*It is great. Beautiful. Thank you, thank you! I feel much safer now."* This house was sponsored by the HELP Association.



House # 5 This home was worked on last year as a badly needed ramp was constructed for this couple, both of whom have health issues. The homeowners still had a greatly deteriorated roof which needed to be replaced. Due to safety concerns that this was not a suitable roof for volunteers to work on, Christmas in April contracted with a local company, HMC Roofing and Home Improvements to complete the work required. The homeowners were very concerned about the roof and were thankful for the wonderful job done by this company. Thanks go to Bob Robertson for overseeing this project. This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 6 On a seasonal day in November, a crew from the Huntingtown United Methodist Church, under the direction of Jim Bosworth, house captain repaired the wheelchair ramp for a 98-year-old, severely disabled veteran. They replaced plywood and added additional supports to make the ramp safer. The homeowner was delighted with these improvements which enabled him to continue to live independently in his home. This home was sponsored by Natalie Moore Real Estate.

House # 7 This homeowner's daughter submitted an application to Christmas in April out of concern for her father's safety in the bathroom. Her 80-year-old father, who has a disability, could definitely benefit from having grab bars at the toilet and the bathtub. Russell Bowie and Randy Kozik, members of the Christmas in April Board, visited the home and, within a very short period of time, securely installed the grab bars to suit his exact height and reach. The homeowner and his daughter were very appreciative of the help provided by Christmas in April. This home was sponsored by the K & V Foundation and Natalie Moore Real Estate.

House # 8 Ben Dansberger led this team of eager volunteers from the Lighthouse Fellowship Church in celebration of Thanks for Giving. The team worked over multiple days to pre-fabricate a new deck and ramp frame(s), demolish the existing deck/ramp, and then install the new deck and ramp for this mobile home. Miscellaneous construction work was also removed from the property. The homeowner said, "*I don't think I could have made it through the winter with the deck and ramp as they were. I really appreciate it.*" This house was sponsored by the HELP Association and SMECO..

House # 9 Keith Williams of St. Nicholas Lutheran Church and Randy Kozik of Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in celebration of Thanks for Giving, worked together to repair the failing deck, ramp, and steps on this home of a widow in her 70s. The ramp was reinforced and new stair stringer supports were added. The hand railings were replaced on one deck. Inside, the control board in the propane stove was replaced so that the entire stove could work again. Other improvements included painting the bathroom and replacing a failing wood entrance door to the homeowner's garage with a steel door and lockset/deadbolt. The homeowner was thrilled to have these added safety features and a new look for her bathroom. This home was sponsored by the K & V Foundation.

House # 10 In early March**,** Steve and Vada Brooks led the Brooks family team as they removed and replaced both the upper and lower kitchen cabinets for this senior widow. The team also replaced the existing countertop and installed a double stainless-steel sink and faucet. Upon completion of all the counter work, the team returned to replace the well-used range. The homeowner was ecstatic with the results, saying, "*Boy, the cabinets are beautiful! Thank God, they did the whole thing. Those 'boys' are workers. They were rolling*." This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 11 On a cold December day and in celebration of Giving Tuesday, the Huntingtown United Methodist Church Youth Group, under the direction of Joe Jaeger house captain, gathered to repair a ten by twelve-foot wooden deck for an elderly Calvert County couple (ages 91 and 86). The volunteers removed all of the old deck boards and replaced them with new ones. A mid-morning hot chocolate break followed by warm pizza for lunch kept the group going strong until the work was completed. The homeowners, a delightful couple, were very pleased with the job. They complimented the volunteers, saying, "*They were really nice and sweet. I love them all. I really appreciate their help. Thank you."* This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 12 Russell Bowie led this team of volunteers from Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church and former employees of the Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center in celebration of Veteran's Day. The team assisted a senior veteran who provided 22 years of distinguished service to the United States Air Force and his wife. This skilled team made many needed improvements to the couple's home which included, but were not limited to:

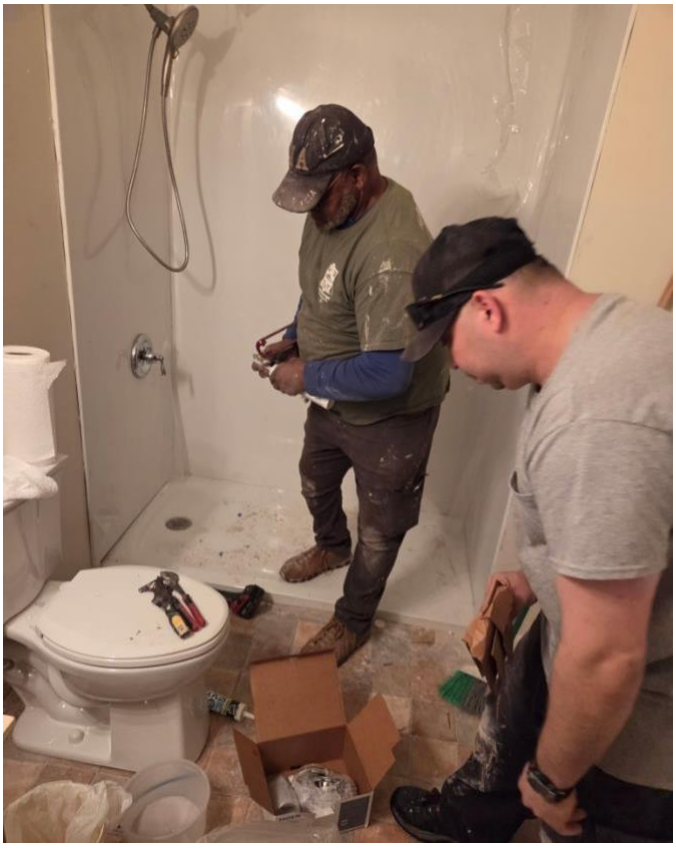
- Installing an electrical current/breaker for a clothes dryer
- Installing a vent
- Cleaning up multiple electrical circuits in the laundry area
- Replacing the basement door sweep and threshold
- Resealing the basement door
- Installing a drain and about 65' of 4" drain tile outside the basement door
- Installing two smoke detectors in the basement
- Installing a new LED spotlight on the back porch
- Installing a new outside plug at the back door
- Installing a drain line from the dehumidifier to the sump pump
- Removing a truck load of treasurers from the basement

Amanda Tyndall led a team from the Calvert Middle School National Honor Society in performing the following work: cleaning flower beds, pruning shrubs, mulching, trimming trees, and painting yard ornaments.
One of the homeowners said that the lights in the back of the house were critically important. People used to come knock on her back door in the night and she has not been bothered since the lights were installed. "*You all are blessed. Christmas in April is the best thing that ever came to Calvert County. Everyone is so kind, just like family*," she said. This house was sponsored by Constellation Energy.



House # 13 Tom Jones led this team of Calvert County Government employees over multiple days to make much needed repairs to a senior lady's

home. The team completed removing and replacing: ten sheets of subfloor, six kitchen cabinets, a kitchen sink, the electric hot water heater, failed sections of rim joist and ledger board, the back deck, and six electrical outlets. Even after completing all of this work, they removed and replaced flooring in the kitchen, living room, bathroom, and bedrooms, installing LVP and carpet! The homeowner was thrilled with the "remarkable makeover." She said, "*My deck was 32 years old. My home was a nightmare. The kitchen cabinets were brown and also 32 years old. They installed white cabinets down the bottom and painted the cabinets on the top. They should be in a magazine now. I appreciate everything they did. Christmas in April is a remarkable organization!"* This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and the Cove Point Federal Credit Union.



House # 14 This 69-year-old homeowner is disabled and has an extremely low-income level. His front steps were deteriorated to the point where delivery people bringing food, supplies, etc. were refusing to bring the items to his front door. They were leaving the items at the foot of his steps or out in the front yard, which resulted in stolen or damaged goods.

The steps were approximately 10 courses high and made of brick. Masonry is not something Christmas in April has the skillset for, so the entire repair was outsourced to a local mason. Over 100 bricks were cut out and replaced. The whole staircase was acid cleaned and the job was completed. The homeowner was very appreciative of the repairs to his steps. This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 15 Over a two-day period in early March, the Brooks family team, led by Steve and Vada Brooks, removed and replaced an existing bathtub and commode for this female veteran in her 70s who has a history of falls. They were replaced with a walk-in shower and ADA compliant commode. The team assembled Friday afternoon and removed the existing tub and toilet. Early Saturday morning, they started to modify the plumbing, installing the shower pan, the floor to ceiling shower walls and the new commode. Upon completion of the actual work, they thoroughly cleaned the bathroom. The homeowner expressed her thanks, saying, "*I feel so much safer now. Everything is fantastic, just phenomenal. The crew that came here were a great bunch of men. They were funny and enjoyed working together."* This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 16 Larry and Beth Carter and Vada Brooks led a multi-organizational team to make needed improvements for a 97-year-old United States Navy veteran. The improvements included: constructing a handrail at the front ingress/egress point, replacing two broken bedroom windows, and installing LVP flooring in the living room. They also constructed a front porch platform and a 20' wheelchair accessible ramp. The homeowner loves the ramp and enjoys using it to go to church and the store. His daughter commented, "*It is so much easier getting my father out of the house now.*

Christmas in April is wonderful!" Volunteers supporting this project were from Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church, the Brooks Family, Retirees from the Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center, and Danny Floor Systems. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.

House #17 This homeowner had active roof leaks caused by a failing ridge vent and a previously patched section of the roof that was no longer keeping water out of the home. Recognizing the need for specialized expertise, Christmas in April partnered with trusted local contractor HMC Roof & Home Improvement to complete the repairs.

HMC Roof & Home Improvement quickly and efficiently repaired the problem areas, protecting the home from further water damage and providing the homeowner with a safe, watertight roof. Their professional workmanship ensured this critical repair was completed promptly and effectively. Special thanks to HMC Roof & Home Improvement for their quality workmanship and partnership with Christmas in April. This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House #18 Amanda Foster led a team from Calvert Health Medical Center's Emergency Department which invested approximately 123 volunteer hours over multiple days to complete a wide range of repairs and improvements for this family. Volunteers reconstructed the rear deck and ramp, removed a failed under-sink water filtration system, repaired cabinet doors, cleared years of overgrowth from around the home, cleaned and mulched flower beds, pressure washed the siding and front porch and constructed raised-bed vegetable garden boxes.

One of the most significant improvements was restoring proper water flow in the kitchen. Prior to the repairs, the homeowners reported that it could take up to 30 minutes to fill the sink for washing dishes. The replacement of the failed filtration system resolved the problem and greatly improved the home's functionality. The homeowners were also relieved to have safety concerns about the rear deck and ramp fully addressed.

The homeowner described the project as "*a lifesaver*" and expressed appreciation for the volunteers' hard work and dedication. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and the Cedar Point Federal Credit Union.



House #19 Volunteers from Mt. Olive UMC (house captain Michael Loving), the Brooks Family Team (house captains Steve and Vada Brooks), and the Huntingtown UMC Youth Group (house captain Bob Robertson) worked together over multiple days in April and May to complete extensive repairs and improvements for a multi-generational household headed by a 70- and 77-year-old couple with mobility challenges.

The teams replaced three failed exterior doors, installed a replacement window, constructed a 6 ft. x 5 ft. porch, and completed significant structural repairs to sections of rim joist, plate, and subfloor. Inside the home, volunteers transformed the kitchen

by installing new kitchen cabinets, countertop and a new kitchen sink.

In total, the three teams invested 233 volunteer hours on this project. The homeowners were thrilled with the results, noting that the new doors have improved air circulation throughout the home while enhancing safety and comfort for the entire family. One homeowner described the project as "*such a blessing*," adding, "*I'm so happy over it*." The work dramatically improved both the functionality and safety of the home for three generations living under one roof. A volunteer followed up by providing information about additional community resources that may be able to assist with other energy efficiency improvements. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.



House #20 This house was transformed through the efforts of the 13-member “Gratitude Crew,” a team that brought together skilled tradespeople, first-time volunteers, and even a high school carpentry student gaining hands-on experience. Volunteers worked alongside four generations of the homeowner’s family, creating a day defined as much by connection as by accomplishment.

Construction teams focused on critical structural and accessibility improvements, installing a second means of egress and a new deck. The front ramp was replaced with one that featured a reduced incline, making it significantly safer and more manageable for the homeowner to navigate with her walker. The bathroom floor was removed, the subfloor leveled, and new Luxury Vinyl Plank flooring installed. Compromised electrical outlets were replaced.

The yard crew cleared extensive overgrowth, removed hazardous branches, cleaned and repaired gutters, installed gutter guards, and filled a 20-yard dumpster with debris. They also power washed the home, pruned plantings, removed invasive growth, raked around the home and reclaimed a cluttered pavilion to provide usable space for family gatherings.

By day’s end, the house had been renewed with care and a strong sense of community and was safer and more functional—an enduring reflection of what can be accomplished in a single day when "many hands make the work light." This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House #21 New Life Church completed one of four Christmas in April projects they undertook this year, once again providing a wide range of much-needed home repairs for an elderly, disabled homeowner. Volunteers replaced two windows, added weather stripping to an exterior door, repaired case molding, replaced a faucet, installed new treads on an outside staircase and repaired a support beam on the home's deck. These improvements made the home both safer and more energy efficient. The homeowner's daughter noted that the replacement windows have made it much easier to maintain a comfortable temperature inside the home. The deck repair was especially meaningful, because safety concerns have made the homeowner and his family reluctant to use the deck. Following the repairs, they are once again able to enjoy this outdoor space with confidence. The homeowner's daughter praised the volunteers' efforts, describing the team as "*great*" and expressing appreciation for the positive difference they made. This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 22 This homeowner, who is 100 years old, needed to replace a tub with a walk-in shower. New Life Church volunteers, with Randy Morgan as house captain, came to her rescue! The old plumbing presented a number of significant challenges which took a lot of time and effort to overcome. The result was a new walk-in shower with grab rails that were infinitely safer for the homeowner! Her daughter said, "*The bathtub had to be fifty years old and the plumbing must have been one hundred years old. They did an excellent job, an excellent job on the plumbing. The shower is wonderful."* This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

Houses # 24 and #23 New Life Church volunteers, guided by Natalie Bongiorni, house captain, accomplished an impressive amount of work in a single day, addressing critical safety concerns at two neighboring townhomes. At House #24, the team replaced three rotted porch posts, repaired deck joists and a deteriorated band board, replaced rotting deck boards, and installed a new sliding glass door. The homeowner noted that the previous door had become extremely difficult to open, making the replacement a significant improvement in both safety and convenience. This house was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and Pathway Wealth Partners LLC.

After completing work at House #24, volunteers assisted the neighboring homeowner in House #23 by replacing a rotted deck post and repairing a damaged railing. These repairs made both homes safer and more secure. The homeowner praised the volunteers for their "*wonderful work*," saying enthusiastically, "*They got the job done!"* This house was sponsored by Sneade's ACE Home Center.

House #25 A team of six volunteers from Huntingtown United Methodist Church, with Joe Jaeger as house captain, completed a wide range of improvements for two senior homeowners, enhancing the safety, energy efficiency, and overall condition of their home. Volunteers installed insulation, caulking, and weather stripping, improved water efficiency by repairing leaks and installing water-saving fixtures, enhanced indoor air quality through improved ventilation and other improvements, completed landscaping with native trees and plants, and provided homeowner education on health, safety, and home maintenance.

One of the most important repairs addressed a significant safety concern. The home's only rear exit was a door located approximately three feet above the ground with no platform or stairs, making it unusable in the event of an emergency. The Huntingtown UMC team constructed a small deck with railings, installed a staircase, and removed the boards blocking the door. The homeowners now have a safe secondary exit should an emergency arise. Well done, Huntingtown United Methodist Church! This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and Pathway Wealth Partners LLC.



House # 26 Friendship Community Baptist Church, with Rob Waltman serving as house captain, came to the aid of this homeowner who needed a number of repairs to make her home more secure. First, the group replaced a front door that would not properly lock with a brand-new door. This wasn't an easy task as they had to deal with floors that were not adequately supported. *"I didn't lock my door for so many years that I often forget to lock it now when I go out."* The volunteers also replaced damaged portions of interior subfloor with new plywood and covered it with beautiful new vinyl flooring. Finally, the group repaired tile in part of the kitchen. The homeowner expressed her thanks saying, *"I am standing here with tears in my*

eyes. They are fixing it up so nice inside. I try to patch things up but I do not have the skills needed. I have the time but not the money to repair my home. A bunch of good guys worked on my home. I am extremely thankful." This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.



House # 27 - This homeowner is a single 55-year-old mother with multiple physical challenges that hinder her keeping pace with needed repairs to her home built in 1975. Two weeks before the April workday, discovery of overflowing wastewater from two full septic tanks was pumped out by Southern Shores Septic and Excavation and a new septic pump with an alarm was installed and then wired to the house.

On the April workday, a 23-member team from Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church with two volunteers from HELP Association focused on the repairs to the house. Randy Kozik was the house captain for this part of the work. Three years of compacted leaves were cleaned out of the sagging gutters, then the gutters were pressure washed, and new supporting brackets installed. All fifty feet of the deteriorating landscaping timbers in the front lower beds were replaced with pressure treated 4' x 4's and backfilled with three cubic yards of topsoil for the new flower beds. The OSB flake sheathing on the front addition of the house was replaced with Tyvek house wrap and finished with new white vinyl siding. Twenty years of accumulated items, such as a Nautilus steel weight apparatus, two inoperable window AC units, two mattresses, car parts and outdated tools were hauled to the driveway dumpster or taken to be recycled. The main bedroom was organized and dusted, floors cleaned, the old mattress and bedframe were removed and replaced with new ones. Two new footings and two 6' x 6' support beams were installed beneath the deck to reinforce the 16 foot 2" x 12" support beam for the 16' x 16' foot deck. All the deck boards were then pried up and removed from the deck in preparation for new decking the next day.

On May 8th, thirty-two members of the 2026 LEAP Class Team of the College of Southern Maryland began restoring the backyard and installing new deck boards. Brandon Caywood and Billy Hennesey led this team. Ten members of the 2026 Leap Team, equipped with impact drills and screws, worked attentively atop and alongside the exposed joists of the 16' x 16' foot deck to measure, cut, and install 256 sq. ft. of new 5/4" decking and 58 ft. of new railing cap. Simultaneously, the remaining members set out to clear the acre of overgrown blackberry bushes, small saplings, vines and set free the discarded home appliances, long abandoned playground and lawn equipment, a fiberglass tub/shower unit, a trampoline, and a 20 ft. diameter / 4ft. high above-ground pool with sheet metal sides. All were hauled to the large dumpster in the driveway or set aside to be recycled. Several adventurous LEAP teammates took turns operating a heavy-duty industrial mower to gnaw and cut paths through the thickets and vines allowing other teammates equipped with loppers, string trimmers, rakes, shovels, hoes, tarps, and wheelbarrows to transform it to a manageable yard. As a fitting climax to the afternoon, five team members

resurrected the overgrown garden by weeding, tilling, and reinstalling the new fencing around it.

The teams enthusiastically transformed the yard and livability of her home, hoping to restore her spirits for a better tomorrow. Some of the homeowner's comments were: *"Christmas in April just kept going and going and doing things. I can now take my dog out back and work in the garden. This has been a blessing because these improvements now push me to go outside. I smile more now and feel much lighter. Such a weight has been lifted. It's awesome!"* This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and the HELP Association.

House # 28 Glenn Phelps, from Cave to Castle Remodeling, led a multi organizational team from Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, St. Nicholas Lutheran Church, Cove Point LNG Plant, and the Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center to assist a physically challenged senior lady.

The team removed the existing bathroom, taking the floor down to the floor joists and the walls to studs. The team then made multiple structural repairs to the floor and walls. A walk-in shower was installed along with LVP flooring, an ADA compliant commode, a vanity and LED lighting. The volunteers also trimmed trees, repaired the iron handle rail on the back porch, and removed a truckload of treasures from in and around the home. The home was also treated for termites. The homeowner was very pleased with the greatly improved accessibility she now has in the bathroom and all of the additional work to enhance her ability to remain in her home. This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust, the HELP Association and Cave to Castle Remodeling.

House #29 Volunteers from Cave to Castle Remodeling, St. Nicholas Lutheran Church, Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church and the Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center, with Glenn Phelps and Keith Williams serving as house captains, worked together over multiple days to complete extensive renovations that greatly improved the safety, accessibility and functionality of this home.

The team removed and replaced the existing bathtub with a walk-in shower and reconfigured the bathroom by relocating the vanity and removing linen cabinets to create space for a stackable washer and dryer. As a result, the homeowner is once again able to do her own laundry independently without having to navigate the basement stairs. Volunteers also installed new bathroom lighting, repaired the bathroom exhaust fan, and modified the kitchen cabinetry and countertop so the refrigerator could be relocated within the kitchen, creating a more functional layout.

The homeowners praised the professionalism of the volunteers and expressed heartfelt appreciation for everyone involved. They shared that they love both their new bathroom and improved kitchen and have continued the project by painting the walls to complete the renovation. Their message to the volunteers summed it up best: "*The bathroom turned out fantastic. We love the kitchen as well. Again, thank you so much for everything*."

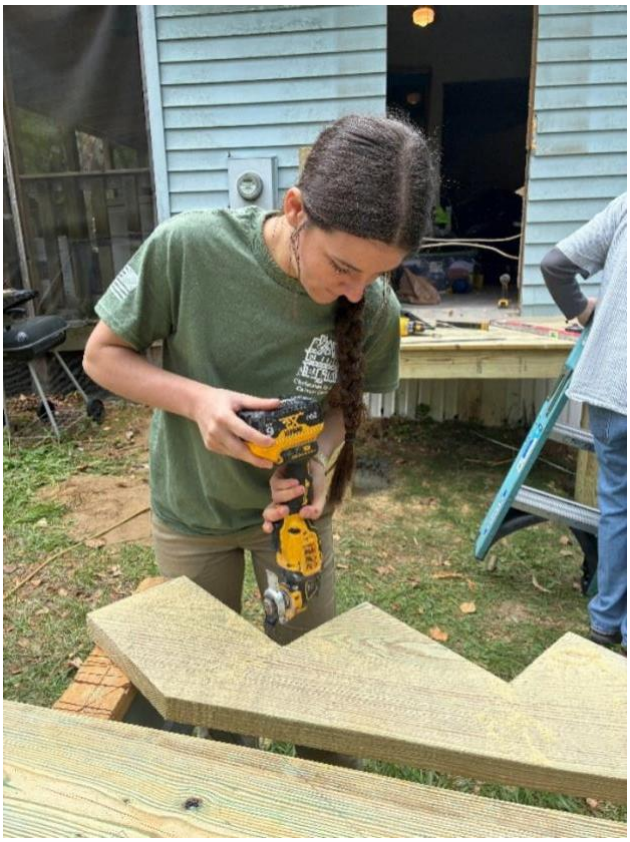
This project was sponsored by Cave to Castle Remodeling, the K&V Foundation and the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.



House # 30 Multiple groups made numerous repairs to this home in 2025, allowing this deserving couple to remain in their home. The couple worked side by side with the volunteers and were most grateful to still have a home, due to the efforts of Christmas in April. One project remained

for 2026 to protect the house. A roof replacement was required which would include structural reinforcement and replacement. Glenn Phelps guided this project to its completion. One of the homeowners said, "*I wake up every morning thinking I can't believe this. My wife and I will do anything we can to help."*

Volunteers working on this home last year and this year included representatives from Cave to Castle Remodeling, Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, St. Nicholas Lutheran Church, the Southern Maryland Leadership Classes of 2024 and 2025, Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Constellation Energy, Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center, Cove Point LNG, and the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This overall home project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust, the HELP Association, Sneade's ACE Home Center, Cave to Castle Remodeling, and Dean Home Center.



House # 31 Glenn Phelps, of Cave to Castle Remodeling, served as house captain for this project. Danny's Floor Systems installed carpet in the master bedroom and LVP in the bathroom for this senior Vietnam veteran. This house, built in 1940, was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and HELP.

House # 32 Stacy Tayman and a team of nine volunteers from the Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff invested 77 volunteer hours completing a variety of repairs and improvements for this homeowner. " As the House Captain noted, "She is a wonderful homeowner." She frequently checked on the volunteers throughout the day to be sure they had plenty of water, making the project especially enjoyable for everyone involved.

The team eliminated a significant trip hazard by replacing the deteriorating front walkway with a new path of pea gravel and pavers. Volunteers also pressure washed and refinished the deck and ramp, constructed a new basement access door, washed the home's siding, raked leaves away from the foundation, and created a new garden. Inside the home, they painted the dining room, replaced a damaged section of paneling, and installed a new bedroom door.

These improvements enhanced both the safety and appearance of the property while helping the homeowner preserve and enjoy her home. Well done, Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff! This home was sponsored by the HELP Association and AC Custom Construction.

House #33 James Jackson and a team of five volunteers from Smithville UM Church completed a variety of repairs and safety improvements for this homeowner. Volunteers repaired deteriorated wood framing around the deck door, installed tracks for a screen door, installed five combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, repaired electrical outlets and a hallway light fixture, installed a gutter downspout and cleaned the gutters, added flashing around the chimney, repaired and painted rotted wood on the front porch, replaced a broken basement window, cleaned the exterior of the home,

and installed grab handles to make a small step from the side deck safer and easier to navigate. To help complete the project, paint and supplies were left for the homeowner's daughter to apply a second coat to the front porch.

The House Captain reported that the homeowners were very pleased with the work completed. The homeowners even grilled hot dogs for the volunteers' lunch—a thoughtful gesture of appreciation that made the day especially memorable.

This project was sponsored by Smithville United Methodist Church and God's Bounty, with additional support provided by Crownstone through volunteer Steve Cleary. The project will be completed later this fall when Spence's Tree Service has committed to removing a large damaged oak tree that currently poses a significant hazard to the property.



House # 34 The Calvert County Lions Club, led by Brian Owens as house captain, helped out this older couple by repairing a large deck and installing a new storm door. Deck repairs consisted of removing all the decking boards, railings, and steps from the original deck, and making several structural repairs of rotted joists which were uncovered when removing the decking. Most of the joists needed repairing and a good start on the new decking had occurred by lunchtime. An additional step was added to the deck. The decking and railings were finished around 4 p.m. The team returned another day to complete the storm door installation.

The homeowners were very happy and excited with the new deck. According to their daughter, *"The new deck helps them go out and enjoy the day now. It definitely helps my mother to be outdoors and is 1000% better than what they had. I thank God for all of you!"* The homeowners had prepared a smorgasbord of food for the volunteers which was very much appreciated. This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 35 These homeowners were dealing with a roof that was 30 years old and had been leaking. Christmas in April contracted with Tidal Roofing and Exteriors to install a new roof. Tidal Roofing did a great job and the homeowners love their new roof. They no longer worry about leaks further damaging their house. They said, *"Everything is fine. Thank you very much!!"* Thanks so much Tidal Roofing and Exteriors! This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 36 Keith Williams, of St. Nicholas Lutheran Church, was able to help out a couple when the blower on their furnace did not work. He installed a new furnace blower motor and the homeowners were very happy to again have a working heating system. This project was sponsored by the K & V Foundation.

House #37 A team of seven Christmas in April board members came together on November 22, 2025, to complete an annual "Thanks for Giving" project for this hardworking single mom and her

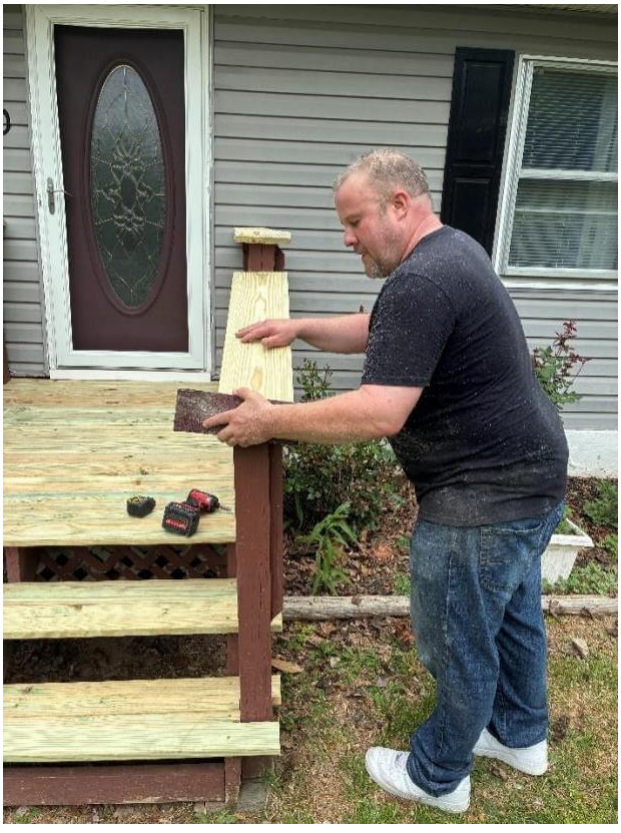
three children. Volunteers repaired deck railings and steps, installed new safety handrails, replaced deteriorated stair treads, reattached a railing at a landing, and installed a safety railing on the basement stairs. They also replaced a failing dishwasher, repaired the garbage disposal, and provided a new stove to replace one that was no longer safe or fully functional. In addition, a team member identified and repaired the source of an HVAC leak and volunteers removed a truckload of unwanted items from the property. This work was coordinated by Lorraine Joyner.

These improvements enhanced safety, comfort, and functionality throughout the home while addressing important maintenance needs that might otherwise have gone unmet. During a follow-up call, the homeowner was also connected with information about additional community resources that may help improve the home's energy efficiency. She shared, *"I am so very grateful for the help I have received from Christmas in April. I just do not have the resources to get this work done on my own. Knowing these repairs are done gives me one less thing to worry about."* This house was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 38 This project for Christmas in April volunteers, led by house captains Beth and Larry Carter of Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church, was to repair the steps on a back stoop to provide a secondary egress for the homeowner. Additionally, the stove pipe for the wood stove was cleaned and repaired and smoke alarms were added. The bathroom wiring was sorted out so that the smart fan and the smoke alarms were not wired together and "dumb" switches were installed. An outside outlet was also repaired, and the dryer vent was cleaned. A 'gazillion' leaves were blown into the gully behind the house. This ended the first day of work.

On December 30, four volunteers removed a wood pile from a church member's home. The wood was loaded into a trailer and transported to another home where it was split and re-loaded on the trailer. The wood was then transported to this house, unloaded, and stacked so that it is easily accessible for the homeowner. This took between three and four hours. What teamwork!

The homeowner was ecstatic about the work done for her and also the volunteers! "*They fixed the back porch so I don't have to go out my back door and fall and break my neck. They were so efficient. They came in like a swarm of locusts and went to work. It was like a miracle. They were the nicest people ever. I have health issues but could just relax because they knew what they were doing. It was like a dream come true for me. Thank God I got free wood and Christmas in April also fixed the stove so it works and put up smoke detectors. I feel secure in my house."* She added, *"I wish I could convey how appreciative I am. There are just no words for this. It was like a miracle. I could have kissed every one of them. It was like a dream come true for me. Everyone was at the top of their game. Thank you so much for being such a wonderful organization! When you thank them, multiply what I said by 100."* This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.



House # 39 This low-income homeowner suffers from severe scoliosis. Walking down steps is particularly painful. Christmas in April responded to an urgent request as part of our Giving for Tuesday celebration. A ten-foot prefabricated ramp was procured and installed to allow her to have a smooth transition to her driveway. The homeowner said, "*The ramp is wonderful. Thank you very much! I really appreciate it."* This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.



House #40 One of three Calvert County Government teams completed a variety of repairs and improvements that enhanced the safety, comfort, and appearance of this homeowner's property. The house captain for this project was Crystal Moore. Volunteers installed a clearly visible house number so emergency personnel can quickly identify the home, restored the back deck by power washing, replacing deteriorated boards and refinishing the surface. They also applied a protective coating to the front handrails.

Inside the home, worn electrical outlets and cover plates were replaced, resolving a long-standing problem with loose outlets that would no longer hold plugs securely. New smoke detectors and a bathroom exhaust fan motor were installed. All light bulbs and exterior light fixtures were upgraded to energy-efficient models. Additional work included trimming overgrown tree branches, cleaning gutters, removing leaves and mulching flower beds.

The homeowner expressed heartfelt appreciation for the volunteers, noting that many of the repairs were beyond her physical and financial ability to complete. She shared that the improvements brought her peace of mind and "*made her happy*." A volunteer followed up by providing information about additional community resources that may be able to assist with other needs. This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House #41 Volunteers from Cedar Point Federal Credit Union, with Ashton Osborne as house captain, and the Maryland Association of Realtors, with Kelly Reynolds as house captain, teamed up to enhance the safety, appearance, and accessibility of this homeowner's property. The team mowed the lawn, reshaped and mulched several flower beds, cleaned and stained the front porch, and installed a new paver walkway at the rear of the home.

The homeowner, who has lived independently for the past 35 years, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the volunteers and their willingness to give their time to help others. "*The volunteers are just fantastic to give of their time,"* she said. "*It means an awful lot that people care and will take the time to help a single woman."* Her words reflect the spirit of Christmas in April and the lasting impact volunteers make through their generosity and compassion. This project was sponsored by the Cedar Point Federal Credit Union.

House #42 Jen Murphy and Ben Keys led a team of 18 volunteers from Mill Creek Middle School's National Honor Society and Student Government Association in completing outdoor improvements for a senior widow. The students and skilled volunteers pressure washed the home, gutters, back

deck, front porch, and sidewalk, and refreshed the property's landscaping by cleaning, weeding, and mulching multiple flower beds.

The homeowner expressed heartfelt appreciation for the volunteers, rating her Christmas in April experience a "*10 out of 10*." She shared that the assistance enabled her to complete projects she would not have been able to accomplish on her own because of her physical limitations. The project not only enhanced the appearance of her home but also demonstrated the positive impact that young volunteers can have by serving members of their community. This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 43 Vince Maldonado and Joe Suaarez-Murias led this team of skilled volunteers from the Knights of Columbus Our Lady Star of the Sea to make needed repairs for a senior lady and her son. The team rebuilt the stairs to the primary entrance of the home. They also reconstructed doors to the crawl space, cleaned and flushed gutters, painted the bathroom ceiling, caulked the bathtub, repaired the kitchen light fixture, repaired the deck handrails, and removed treasures from within the living space. The homeowner finds Christmas in April to be *"a cause necessary and welcomed."* This home was sponsored by SMILE.

House #44 Larry and Beth Carter led a team from Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church, while Kyle Hensler led volunteers from the Patuxent High School National Honor Society. Together, the teams invested 156 volunteer hours over multiple days completing a wide range of repairs and improvements for a physically challenged senior homeowner.

Volunteers completed multiple drywall repairs, painted a downstairs bedroom, installed front porch handrails, re-secured interior stair treads, replaced worn electrical outlets, upgraded all light bulbs to energy-efficient LED lighting, installed paddle-style door hardware, replaced a broken toilet seat, cleaned the dryer vent, replaced the HVAC filter, removed two trailer loads of unwanted household items from the basement, cleaned the yard, and refreshed several flower beds with new mulch.

The homeowner shared that the new porch railings have made it much easier and safer for her to enter and leave her home. Overflowing with appreciation for the work that was completed, she said, "*My gratitude knows no bounds*." She also praised the volunteers, adding, "*The people that gravitate toward Christmas in April are the kindest, most loving people in the world*." Before we ended the call she offered one final message: "*We old ladies love you."* This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and SMILE.

House #45 "What a beautiful day to help a neighbor in need." Glenn Phelps led a multi-organization team from Cave to Castle Remodeling, St. Nicholas Lutheran Church, Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Cove Point LNG, and the Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center in completing an accessibility renovation for a physically challenged teenager.

The team removed the existing bathtub/shower unit, commode, and vanity and installed a new walk-in shower with grab bars, a comfort-height commode, and a larger vanity designed to better meet the needs of this growing young man. The team also constructed a very sturdy bed frame to accommodate the young man. These improvements greatly enhanced the safety and accessibility of the bathroom, making daily care easier for both the homeowner and her son.

The homeowner shared that the renovated bathroom has been "*a great ADL support*," making it possible for her son to shower regularly rather than only once or twice each week. She expressed her heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved, adding, "*Thank you all so much!"* This house was sponsored by K &V Foundation and Natalie Moore Real Estate.

House #46 Volunteers from Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Cove Point LNG, and the Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center, led by house captain Steve Sanders, worked over three days in June, contributing 98 skilled volunteer hours to complete a variety of much-needed repairs for a senior widow and her daughters.

The team rebuilt the back porch deck, cleaned the gutters, installed gutter guards on both the house and garage, trimmed trees and shrubs, refreshed a well-worn bathroom, and removed a load of unwanted household items from the property. Together, these improvements enhanced the safety, appearance, and functionality of the home while helping the homeowner maintain her independence. This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and SMILE.

House #47 A team of 16 volunteers from Calvert County Government, led by Monty Parks, contributed 133 volunteer hours over two workdays in April to complete a variety of repairs and improvements for a senior widow.

The team pressure washed and stained the back deck and front porch, replaced multiple deck boards, installed luxury vinyl plank flooring in the kitchen, replaced a bi-fold pantry door, and refreshed several flower beds with new mulch. Volunteers also replaced a leaking refrigerator and a broken stove, providing the homeowner with reliable appliances while improving the safety, appearance, and functionality of the home.

During a follow-up conversation, the homeowner expressed her appreciation for the volunteers, sharing that she was delighted with both the team and the quality of the work they completed. This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and SMILE.

House #48 Chuck Muller led a team from Friendship United Methodist Church that invested three days of volunteer service completing a variety of repairs and improvements for a homeowner with significant physical challenges.

Volunteers installed a highly visible house number sign at the end of the driveway to help emergency responders quickly locate the home when needed. They also repaired a plumbing leak beneath the kitchen sink, cleaned and secured the gutters, and completed the major project of replacing the decking and stairs. Before construction could begin, the team removed accumulated debris from the deck and yard, preparing the area for the extensive repairs.

The project required three days of dedicated volunteer effort and resulted in a safe, attractive new deck that greatly improved the home's safety and functionality. The homeowner expressed sincere appreciation for both the quality of the work and the kindness of the volunteers who made it possible. This project was sponsored by Friendship UMC, the HELP Association, and the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House #49 A team of six volunteers from Friendship United Methodist Church completed several important repairs that improved the safety and weather resistance of this homeowner's property. Volunteers replaced the rear exterior door, installed a new side window and replacement glass in two front windows, installed a new interior bedroom door, and added a safety railing to the existing deck and ramp.

During a follow-up conversation, the homeowner shared that her new rear door is "*working out very well.*" She explained that the old door actually "*flapped*" in the wind and rain, and she is certain it would not have withstood the recent storms. She also expressed her appreciation for the volunteers, saying they treated her "like they were old friends."

These improvements enhanced the safety, comfort, and security of the home while providing the homeowner with lasting peace of mind. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust, Constellation, and Friendship UMC.

House # 50 Chuck Muller led this team from Friendship United Methodist Church as the volunteers helped this older homeowner. The team removed and replaced two broken exterior doors, installed new locks and deadbolts, repaired a hole in the living room floor and constructed a 5' x 5' porch. "*I had three steps to the front door with no handrails or platform. My home is so much safer now that I have a porch. They did a fantastic job. My family and I are very thankful for your team helping me out so that I am able to stay in my home. I also was touched by receiving a prayer shawl."* This home was sponsored by Friendship United Methodist Church, the HELP Association, and the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 51 Steve and Vada Brooks led the Brooks Family on this project. The team replaced a very well used French Door with a new vinyl French Door system. This replacement prevents the elements and wildlife from entering the home. The homeowner thanks Christmas in April by saying, "*The door is excellent. The air was coming in and the door was basically coming apart. I am grateful for the door and thank you very much.*" This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and Pathway Wealth Partners LLC.

House # 52 Glenn Phelps served as the house captain for this project. Danny's Flooring Service installed carpet in the master bedroom and LVP in the bathroom for this senior Vietnam Veteran. The homeowner is very pleased with the new floors for his home and expressed his thanks for this much needed improvement. This house was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.

House # 53 This Calvert County Office on Aging contacted Christmas in April (CIA) on behalf of a 71-year-old Solomons homeowner with very low income. The homeowner had issues with the controls on a "grinder" pump that is used to dispose of waste in the Solomons area sewer system. The pump turned out to be fine, but the controls were not functioning as designed and the homeowner had to come outside, sometimes daily (and sometimes in rain, which is dangerous when manipulating electrical breakers), to activate and deactivate the system to prevent overflow. CIA contacted several local experts and hired SPEK Septics of Prince Frederick to troubleshoot the system and make repairs. The homeowner is grateful to CIA for helping to correct an issue that was very inconvenient to the homeowner. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and SMILE.

House #54 Christmas in April shouts out to the team from St John Vianney Catholic Church for ushering in spring by "Loving our neighbors." About a month before the March 21st workday, on a cold blustery February afternoon, the house captains walked the home down. The team surveyed, measured, and took pictures of what was needed to improve the homeowner's safety.

The team sourced materials (lights, safety tread covers, paint, shutters, clothesline and a large amount of treated lumber) and started to build their team in a very deliberate manner.

Their goal was to engage parishioners, with a focus on youth. With 40 parishioners participating, of which one half were youth, the team was able to put into practice, " You shall love your neighbors as yourself."

The work was well choreographed with pre-work taking place on Friday, March 20th. This pre-work (cleaning debris off the roof, removing all items /leaves off the decks and replacing the stairs between the upper and lower deck) set the stage for the entire forty-person team to hit the ground running on Saturday morning. The team was divided into multiple sub teams, with four teams working on the decks and handrails, three teams conquering the leaves with multiple blowers and rakes and the last team dedicated to electrical repairs.

The work progressed flawlessly. As the decking was replaced, team members were vectored off to

replace/paint shutters, install grab bars, replace the clothesline, and install non-skid materials on stair treads and last, but certainly not least, removal of all waste from deck repairs.

Thanks to the parishioners from St John Vianney for demonstrating how to "Love our neighbors" and changing this homeowner's life in a very short period of time. The homeowners describe the work as "*Fantastic! The volunteers have made the home much safer. I could only walk on part of my deck and I was afraid my foot would go through the boards. The leaves and vines were removed from the yard, and I saw rocks I hadn't seen before. That was fantastic also. The new lights on the outside of the house are so pretty!"* This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and AC Custom Construction with support from Bin There Dump That and Sneade's ACE Home Center.

House #55 Heather Woodward led a team of 15 volunteers from DCS Corporation, who invested 100 volunteer hours completing a wide range of repairs and improvements for a senior widow. The team tackled both indoor and outdoor projects, including repairing electrical outlets, replacing smoke detectors, installing new LED lighting and light fixtures, replacing bi-fold doors, repairing sections of the fence and gate, clearing years of accumulated leaves and limbs, reshaping and mulching flower beds, cleaning gutters, and power washing the home. The team also helped create a safer environment for the homeowner and her dogs by repairing the fenced enclosure and addressing other safety concerns.

One of the most significant improvements came after Steve Sanders contacted SMECO about a dead tree that posed a threat to nearby utility lines. SMECO removed the tree, eliminating a potentially serious safety hazard. Steve also helped the homeowner obtain a used refrigerator to replace one that was leaking and had damaged her kitchen floor. Heather returned about a week after the project to finish a few remaining items—a gesture the homeowner particularly appreciated.

The homeowner described her experience with Christmas in April as *"most wonderful"* and said she felt *"so incredibly fortunate and grateful"* for the generosity of the volunteers. She explained that the work was something she could never have done herself or afforded to have professionally completed. *"I still get teary eyed when I look around at all they did for me,"* she wrote. She described the project as "*life changing*."

This project was sponsored by DCS Corporation, the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust, and SMILE.

House #56 Warren Courtney led a team of 12 enthusiastic volunteers from Calvert Grace Community Church, who contributed 102 volunteer hours completing a wide range of repairs and improvements for a senior homeowner.

Volunteers constructed an aluminum shed, cleaned years of accumulated leaves from the yard and flower beds, reshaped existing landscaping, installed multiple fence panels, cleaned gutters, replaced rotted wood beneath the kitchen sink, removed an awning at the back door, rehung a gutter, repaired a faulty electrical outlet and light switch, and installed a stackable washer and dryer.

For the homeowner, the new washer and dryer were life changing. Having been without laundry facilities since 2021, she was overjoyed to no longer make regular trips to the laundromat. She described the volunteers as "wonderful," called the project "such a blessing," and added simply, "I'm speechless." This project was sponsored by SMILE and Pathway Wealth Partners.

House #57 John Yoe led a team of six volunteers from the Democratic Women's Club, who contributed 89 volunteer hours completing a variety of repairs and improvements for a 67-year-old widow.

The team replaced a well-worn sliding glass door with new French doors, replaced two bathroom exhaust fans, installed two grab bars in the bathroom, re-screened three window screens, installed a new screen door, reinstalled the stairway banister, re-caulked the front door, and replaced the front door lock and deadbolt. Together, these improvements enhanced the home's safety, security, and energy efficiency while helping the homeowner maintain her independence.

During a follow-up conversation, the homeowner expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the volunteers, saying, "*You've been such a blessing. Keep up the good work."* This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and Pathway Wealth Partners, LLC.

House # 58 This 69-year-old, disabled, very low income, homeowner contacted Christmas in April (CIA) after several weeks of having no water supplied to his home. He had obtained an estimate for the repairs, and he could just not afford to have it done. CIA contacted our preferred well vendor, Quality Well and Septic in Prince Frederick. They came the next day and completed the well pump, pressure tank and hot water heater replacement that afternoon. They did a fantastic job, and the homeowner was over-the-top with appreciation for CIA and QW&S. It was a 100-degree day when they performed the work, so he was able to take a cool shower and get cleaned up properly for the first time in weeks!

He asked us, “how much is this going to cost me”? When we told him no charge, you could see the amazement on his face! This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and Natalie Moore Real Estate.

House # 59 Glenn Phelps from Cave to Castle Remodeling led this team of volunteers from the Brooks Family and St. Nicholas Lutheran Church to assist a senior couple with mobility challenges. The team installed a chairlift to the upper floor of a split-level home, allowing safe ingress and egress for the homeowner. This project was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and Cave to Castle Remodeling.

Project # 60 HELP Association For the eighth consecutive year on the first Saturday afternoon in December, a team of Christmas in April board members with pick-up trucks and hand trucks joined in transforming the HELP Association Thrift Shop into a Christmas-themed, staged wonderland of toys, clothing, gifts, decorations, trees, lights and ornaments, all at bargain prices. During the year, all Christmas donations were vetted and stored in the basement and then transported to the upstairs sales floor and outside awning area for the Annual Sunday Christmas Sale from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. As always, it was the biggest sales day of the year!

Project # 64 Terry Johnson led a small team of volunteers over multiple days to make needed repairs to the East John Youth Center. The team replaced deteriorated T-111 siding on the center’s gazebo. They also replaced damaged vinyl siding, windows and screens, and some interior wood paneling. Damaged wood on the ramp was also replaced. This project was sponsored by SMILE.

Christmas in April*Calvert County, Inc.

P.O. Box 2761
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Telephone: (410)535-9044
www.christmasinaprilcalvertcounty.org

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Address: _____

Telephone: _____Email: _____

*Christmas in April*Calvert County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions may be tax deductible. Consult with your tax adviser. Copies of the current financial statement are available on request by writing to or calling Christmas in April*Calvert County, Inc., P.O. Box 2761, Prince Frederick, MD 20678,* and Telephone*: 410-535-9044. For the cost of copies and postage, documents and information submitted under this title are available from the Secretary of State.*

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Preparations Take Place Year-Round for the April Workday

Applications are accepted year-round with a deadline of September 30 for the following work year. Applications may be found in the churches, the senior centers, the libraries, and with a number of non-profit organizations. Applications may be submitted online or may be requested by calling 410-535-9044. The application can be submitted by the homeowner or a family member, a neighbor, or by an organization with the consent of the homeowner. All of the legal homeowners must live in their house. All work and materials are supplied free of charge to the selected homeowner.

Once applications are received, the **House Selection Committee** meets and members of the committee, including a skilled labor volunteer, visit application sites in October to determine the homeowner's eligibility and the feasibility of repairs. The committee then makes recommendations to the Board based on the need and Christmas in April's ability to do the work. Homeowners will be informed beginning in January of the decision, once Christmas in April knows it has a House Captain and group to do the work on the approved homes.

Parallel to the application process runs the **recruitment of House Captains and groups to do the work for approved homes**. Many of these House Captains and their organizations have supported Christmas in April for many years. The next step involves lining up House Captains with the different projects. The House Captain then meets with the homeowner to determine the work required. Together they will determine a list of priorities. Based on the priorities, the House Captain then makes up a list of the supplies needed for the workday, which will be ordered by the Logistics Committee and delivered to the home one to two days prior to the workday. Homeowners who need more work done on their house than can be completed in one day are encouraged to reapply the following year.

Christmas in April typically completes projects for Veteran's Day, Giving Tuesday, and Martin Luther King Day, as well as on an emergency basis throughout the year. The big workday when volunteers are actively working on a number of homes is the last Saturday in April. On that day, hundreds of volunteers, providing skilled and unskilled labor, meet at the different work sites. The planned amount of work is based on an eight-hour day.

Every House Captain will complete a report on the work done and the number of volunteer hours. A month later, members of the House Selection Committee contact all homeowners to determine if all work promised was completed. **The Board follows up until all promised work is finished.**

Funds for the workday are solicited throughout the year through the writing of grant applications, a mail campaign to the public and through the generosity of many businesses, organizations and individuals.

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