



# Christmas in April\*Calvert County, Inc.

www.ChristmasInAprilCalvertCounty.org

Volume 13

P.O. Box 2761

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Fall 2023

## 2023 Highlights: Christmas in April Calvert County's Impact Continues to Grow

In 2023, Christmas in April Calvert County has continued to make a profound impact on our community. We are thrilled to share the incredible progress we've made this year.

### Impactful Improvements in 2023

In the past year, we worked tirelessly to enhance the lives of Calvert County residents, repairing and improving 42 homes, serving 77 residents in the process. The average number of years these homeowners have lived in their homes is 34, highlighting the long-lasting connections we've established within our community. Moreover, 24 of these homes belong to individuals with disabilities, reinforcing our commitment to making homes more accessible and safe for everyone.

### Diverse Improvements to Homes

Our focus on improving the homes of Calvert County residents remained steadfast. We continued to address a variety of needs, with accessibility improvements being a key priority. In 2023, we made 26 homes more accessible, helping to enhance the quality of life for our residents. We also expanded our efforts in green building elements, with 28 homes benefiting from energy, water, and resource efficiency, improved indoor air quality, and homeowner education.

### Our work extended to several categories of improvements, which include:

- **Ingress/Egress Improvements (17 homes):** Making homes more accessible and safe for all residents.
- **Bathroom Accessibility (3 homes):** Focusing on improving the usability and safety of bathroom facilities.
- **Windows and Doors (14 homes):** Ensuring that residents have reliable windows and doors.
- **Ramps and Ramp Repairs (5 homes):** Enhancing access for those with mobility challenges.
- **Heating and Cooling (4 homes):** Ensuring comfortable living conditions for our residents.
- **Roof, Roof Repairs, and Gutter Work (14 homes):** Protecting homes from the elements.
- **Plumbing and Electrical (9 homes):** Ensuring homes have functional plumbing and electrical systems.
- **Yardwork (12 homes):** Enhancing the overall aesthetics of our community.
- **Painting (9 homes):** Adding a fresh touch to improve living spaces.

We want to emphasize that these are just some of the many improvements we've made, and our commitment goes beyond what we can itemize. Our goal is to ensure every home we touch is safe and welcoming.

### Safety Improvements

Our dedication to safety is unwavering. In addition to specific improvements, we've taken a comprehensive approach to safety by addressing issues related to ingress and egress, bathroom accessibility, ramps, lighting, locks on doors, and smoke detectors. We're committed to making Calvert County homes secure and comfortable.

### The Power of Community

None of this would be possible without the incredible support from our local community, dedicated volunteers, and the generous contributions from individuals, businesses, churches, and organizations. Donors who contributed \$2,000 or more are acknowledged as sponsors of our projects, and groups that sponsor an entire house are recognized, regardless of the cost. These supporters are instrumental in helping us continue our mission, and we encourage you to show your appreciation for their generosity.

We want to thank our volunteers for their incredible commitment and hard work. This year, we had the privilege of working with 600 volunteers who contributed approximately 8,400 hours of their time. Their dedication to the cause is inspiring, and we're grateful for their service.

### A Bright Future Ahead

In 2024, we are excited to build upon our past successes and to continue creating lasting positive impacts in our community. Together, we can make Calvert County a better place for everyone.

Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in the power of community. Your contributions are changing lives, one home at a time.

**Board of Directors:**

Russell Bowie, President  
 Randy Kozik, Vice President  
 Patricia Pringle, Secretary  
 Sean McGowan, Treasurer  
 Justin Allen  
 Richard Alu  
 Steve Brooks  
 Vada Brooks  
 Beth Carter  
 Larry Carter  
 Megan Deaton  
 Jon Gifford  
 Matt Haynes  
 Phil Kholr  
 Carolyn Mohler  
 Natalie Moore  
 Elizabeth Phelps  
 Glenn Phelps  
 Bob Robertson  
 Steve Sanders  
 Donna Sisson

**Resident Agent**

Laurence W. B. Cumberland

**Honorary Board Members**

Pat Buehler  
 Linda Herdeman

**House Selection Committee**

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Carolyn Mohler, Chairperson | Randy Kozik   |
| Dick Alu                    | Natalie Moore |
| Vince Antonioli             | Glenn Phelps  |
| Pat Baumann                 | Pat Pringle   |
| Vada Brooks                 | Tom Reinecker |
| Steve Brooks                | Bob Robertson |
| Beth Carter                 | Steve Sanders |
| Larry Carter                | Donna Sisson  |
| Megan Deaton                | Guffrie Smith |
| Jon Gifford                 |               |

**House Sponsors**

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Calvert County Lions Club                  | Pathway Investment Group (2)       |
| Cave to Castle Remodeling (1)              | Patuxent Habitat for Humanity (5)  |
| Cedar Point Credit Union (1)               | Smeco (3)                          |
| Chaney Cares (2)                           | SMILE                              |
| Constellation Energy (5)                   | St. Nicholas Lutheran Church (3)   |
| Cove Point LNG (3)                         | Smithville United Methodist Church |
| Exelon (2)                                 | Sneade's Ace Hardware (5)          |
| Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church (3) | Walmart                            |
| HELP Association (8)                       | Wawa                               |
| Lowes                                      |                                    |

**House Captains and House Partners**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Calvert County Lions Club<br>Brian Owens                       | Cove Point LNG (2)<br>Susie Lopez  | Men's Group of Life Church<br>Calvert (2)  |
| Calvert County Board of<br>Education<br>Steve Brooks           | Emerging Leaders: Leadership<br>Southern Maryland<br>Class of 2022<br>Megan Deaton           | Mike Frederick<br>Matt Haynes  |
| Calvert County Democratic<br>Women's Club<br>John Yoe          | Friendship Community Baptist Church (2)<br>Fred Noble  | Middle Ham & St Peters Parish<br>James Yoe   |
| Calvert Grace Community Church<br>Warren Courtney              | Friendship United Methodist Church<br>Chuck Muller<br>Ken Reynolds                           | National Junior Honor Society of Calvert<br>Middle School<br>Amanda Tyndall                          |
| Calvert County Government<br>Tom Jones                         | Handy Man Construction<br>Jessica Harper   | National Junior Honor Society of Mill<br>Creek Middle School<br>Jen Murphy                           |
| Calvert Health<br>Donna Sisson                                 | Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian<br>Church (4)<br>Beth Carter<br>Eric Stewart<br>Larry Carter | New Life Church (3 Houses)<br>Randy Morgan<br>Scott Holt<br>Charles Rodger                           |
| Calvert Lighthouse Church (4)<br>Steve Brooks<br>Vada Brooks   | Huntingtown United Methodist<br>Church (3 Houses)<br>Bob Robertson                           | Pathways Investment Group (2)<br>Mike Cox  |
| Cave to Castle Remodeling<br>Glenn Phelps                      | IET Corporation<br>Krystal Ringley<br>Mandi Kuidilan   | PEPCO<br>Matt Haynes<br>Justin Allen   |
| Cedar Point Federal Credit Union<br>Kristen Kauffman           | Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic<br>Church (3)<br>Randy Kozik<br>Tom Reinecker               | Smithville United Methodist Church<br>Steve Clearly<br>Dave Fondelier<br>James Jackson<br>Tom Miller |
| Chesapeake Biological Laboratory<br>Chris Turner               | Knights of Columbus Council #9258<br>Vince Maldonado<br>Joe Suarez-Murias                    | St John Vianney Catholic Church<br>Kim Stack   |
| Concerned Black Men of Calvert<br>County Inc.<br>George Carter |  | St. Nicholas Lutheran Church (3)<br>Keith Williams   |

**Thank You Christmas in April\*Calvert County Partners: Volunteers, Businesses, Churches,  
Organizations and Individuals, who donated money, material, time and skills for the 2023 work year.**

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| A H Hatcher                                | Constellation Energy                    | Middleham & St. Peter's Parish  |
| Alexander Chiropractic                     | Cove Point LNG                          | Mike and Deborah Cox  |
| Amey Durey                                 | Darlene Harrod                          | Mill Creek Middle School National Junior<br>Honor Society & Student Gov. Assoc. |
| America's Charity                          | David & Donna Haarz                     | Natalie Moore Real Estate   |
| Atlantic Rotors                            | Debra and Robert Kimble                 | New Life Church Calvert   |
| Bay View Title                             | Encompass Enterprises                   | Our Lady Star of the Sea  |
| Berkshire Hathaway                         | Economy Glass                           | Pat Pringle   |
| Bob and Janet Robertson                    | Exelon                                  | Pathway Investments   |
| Brother's Johnson                          | Friendship Community Baptist Church     | Patuxent Habitat for Humanity   |
| Calvert Bar Association                    | Friendship United Methodist Church      | Paul Hayden & Sons Plumbing   |
| Calvert Cliff Nuclear Power Plant Retirees | God's Bounty                            | PEPCO   |
| Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant         | Handyman Construction LLC               | Phelps Water Company  |
| Calvert County Board of Education          | Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church  | Phillip Klohr   |
| Calvert County Democratic Women's Club     | HELP Association                        | Project ECHO Thrift and Gift Store  |
| Calvert County Solid Waste Division        | Home Builders Care Fund                 | Richard and Ellen Berry   |
| Calvert County Government                  | Huntingtown United Methodist Church     | Richard Blasy   |
| Calvert County Lions Club                  | IET Corporation                         | Richard Ciabattoni  |
| Calvert County Office on Aging             | Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church | Robert & Debra Kimble   |
| Calvert County Register of Wills           | Jim and Dale Yoe                        | Robert Marino   |
| Calvert County Times                       | Jeff Corby                              | Ron Thomas  |
| Calvert Grace Community Church             | Jeffrey York                            | S. Curran   |
| Calvert Health                             | Joseph Thompson                         | Sean McGowan CPA  |
| Calvert Lighthouse Church                  | Julie A Zinneman                        | SF Jones Heating and Cooling  |
| Calvert Middle Sch. Nat. Jr. Honor Society | Justin Allen                            | SMECO   |
| Cave to Castle Remodeling                  | Keith and Vicki Williams                | SMILE Ecumenical Services, Inc.   |
| Cedar Point Federal Credit Union           | Kenneth Kerns                           | Smithville United Methodist Church  |
| Chaney Cares                               | Knights of Columbus #9258               | Sneade's ACE Home Center  |
| Chesapeake Biological Laboratory           | Leadership Southern Maryland            | Southern MD News  |
| Chesapeake Bounty                          | LEAP graduating class 2022              | St. John Vianney Catholic Church  |
| Chesapeake Ranch Club Admin.               | Lexington Park Dentistry                | St. Nicholas Lutheran Church  |
| Christa Conant                             | Life Church                             | The Wothman Law Firm  |
| Cleary Home Improvements                   | Life Church Youth Group                 | Thomas Miller Electric  |
| Clint and Teresa Ashley                    | Lowe's - California, MD                 | Walmart   |
| COBank                                     | Margaret McCarthy                       | WAWA  |
| Concerned Black Men of Calvert County.     | Meagan Deaton                           |   |

## Tentative Calendar 2023-2024

For more details, see website [www.christmasinaprilcalvertcounty.org](http://www.christmasinaprilcalvertcounty.org).

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### September 2023

September 30: Applications due for the 2024 Christmas in April year.

### October 2023

House Selection Committee will visit the homes of applicants.

### November 2023

The Board tentatively approves houses to be repaired for 2024.

Christmas in April will work on projects to celebrate Veteran's Day.

### December 2023

House captains are assigned to recommended houses.  
December 6: Christmas in April will work on projects to celebrate Giving Tuesday.

### January 2024

Homeowners are informed of application decisions.

### January/February 2024

House captains visit approved homes, 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 2024

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

### April 2024

April 27: 33<sup>th</sup> Annual Workday

### May 2024

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.



Christmas in April\* Calvert County, Inc. in partnership with the community, repairs and improves houses and other physical structures to ensure that low-income homeowners live in warmth, safety and independence.

***The following gives a summary of the improvements made on each home and project in 2023.***

*“It is wonderful! No more leaks”*

*“This is one of the biggest endeavors and most memorable of my life.”*

*“The volunteers were so nice and made me feel like I had known them all my life.”*

*“This is Christmas in April and May and June and July for me.”*

*“The furnace is working fine and I appreciate it, especially on the chilly nights.”*

*“It is a blessing. I felt like a prisoner in my own house.”*

Quotes from 2023 recipients.

**House # 1** This home was carried over from 2022 because of the hazards of spongy roof sections and the complexity of multiple vents and six fans, four valleys, and six rakes making it too difficult for a volunteer crew. The roof and its cost were then forwarded to be contracted for the 2023 work year. Bob Robertson coordinated the roof replacement. This homeowner is 81 years old and has a low income. Her daughter lives with her and is her caretaker. Most of the leaks show up on the bedroom ceiling with several in other rooms of the house. The 2,186 sq. foot roof with 23 squares of shingles was contracted out to Handyman Construction. The old shingles were removed with all the bad plywood and hauled away. Ten new sheets of new plywood, synthetic underlayment, drip edge, ice and water shield, all vent pipe boots, flashings, and ridge vents were installed. On following up with the homeowner after thirty days, she said the roof was doing fine and well, and “I appreciate it!” HELP Association helped make this roof possible in 2023.

**House # 2** This 84-year-old homeowner was in need of HVAC repair due to loss of air conditioning. Keith Williams of the Naval Research Lab and St. Nicholas Lutheran Church used his expertise to make the improvements. Various capacitors were replaced and the refrigerator was recharged. This home was sponsored by St. Nicholas Lutheran Church.

**House # 3** Larry and Beth Carter, house captains, along with volunteers from Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church, made a number of needed improvements for this 80 year old homeowner who lives by herself. A four-foot section of soffit which was rotting out and making an unsightly appearance was replaced. A door to the outer screen room was

tightened up and thresholds were added. Thermostats were replaced on the 30-gallon water heater and more security was added to the space where the water heater was housed. Additional safety measures were taken by replacing rotten deck boards and also the 8-foot steps that had to be dug out and rebuilt. This homeowner said, “They did an awesome job! Everything is wonderful.” This home was sponsored by Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church.



**House # 4** Larry and Beth Carter were also house captains for this home with volunteers from the youth group and young adults of Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church. Prior to the workday, an electrician from the church had checked the wiring in

the home and replaced the kitchen stove. Repairs were made to the walkway and corroding steps and the homeowner was particularly glad of this for herself as well as her Meals on Wheels volunteers. The threshold to the front door was also repaired. A hole in the kitchen ceiling was patched. Much outdoor work was done, including raking, cleaning, and mulching the yard and flower beds and removing tree limbs that were brushing against the house. This was a first-time invaluable experience for some of the youth. The homeowner was enthused over the kind, kind people and said she enjoyed the group so much. "You have no idea how much this means to me." This project was sponsored by Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church.

**House # 5** Warren Courtney from Calvert Grace Community Church led this team of dedicated volunteers as they improved the home of this homeowner who suffers from COPD, his daughter, and her three children. One team immediately started to remove the first windows while a second group replaced two exterior porch lights and a third group began the interior painting with the homeowner. When the dust finally settled, three broken windows had been replaced and much painting occurred inside the home. The exterior porch lights were ready for use. Handyman Construction LLC assisted with the work on the home. The homeowner reported, "The work was awesome. All went well for sure and we had a good day." This home was sponsored by Mike and Deborah Cox Pathways Investments.



**House # 6** Bob Robertson of the Christmas in April Board of Directors coordinated the planning to have the

roof work for this 86-year-old homeowner outsourced to Handyman Construction. The scope of this work included removing/replacing up to 18 square of roofing, replacing sheathing as necessary, and relocating the bathroom vent exhaust higher on the roof. This was much needed work and was greatly appreciated by the homeowner. This home was sponsored by Constellation Energy.

**House # 7** In the fall, the Huntingtown United Methodist Church's youth confirmation class worked hard to help out a neighbor. They mowed the lawn, trimmed trees and bushes, and weeded flowerbeds. In addition to the yardwork, they refurbished a wheelchair ramp, making it safer for the homeowner to get in and out of her house. It was a good day for all. The homeowner praised the work saying, "I was really surprised that those youth could do such a good job. It was perfect."

On a foggy New Year's Eve, Steve and Vada Brooks led a team of members from the Christmas in April Board of Directors to repair multiple roof leaks on this home. They removed and reinstalled any damaged shingles. The team also removed and blocked in a leaking skylight. An inoperable ceiling fan light was repaired and about 20 feet of fascia board was removed and replaced, with the gutter being rehung. The homeowner has had no further leaks in the house. This part of the project was sponsored by the HELP Association.

On April 21, Kristin Kauffman led a team of volunteers from Cedar Point Credit Union to continue with this senior widow's yard. The team cut grass, trimmed bushes, and removed a mountain of vines and yard treasures by taking ten loads of debris to the landfill. The team also cleaned the back deck and siding and recovered a number of flower beds in the backyard.

In April, Amanda Tyndall led a team of focused youth from the Calvert Middle School National Junior Honor Society and adults on this rainy April morning to complete yard work for this physically challenged senior lady. The team arrived ready to work on this soggy morning. They started by cleaning/weeding six

flower beds. They then reshaped the beds and added a generous layer of shredded hardwood mulch provided by A. H. Hatcher. Again, the homeowner was very pleased with the excellent work done by these youth. This project was sponsored by Cedar Point Federal Credit Union.

**House # 8** Vada Brooks, house captain, worked with volunteers from Calvert Lighthouse Church for this 95-year-old homeowner to remove and replace 400 square feet of old shingles to repair a roof leak. These volunteers and family members also rehung and cleaned three sections of gutter.

Steve Brooks, brother of Vada, led a team of volunteers from Calvert Lighthouse Church and the Calvert County Board of Education on another day to complete the project planned for this home. They removed and replaced deteriorated wood and replaced six windows which were broken. The team also added additional supports to the front porch, improving the structural integrity of the porch. The homeowner was “well pleased, very well pleased” with the work completed by both groups. “It’s wonderful! No more leaks.” Both projects were sponsored by Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.

**House # 9** House captain Donna Sisson and her team from Calvert Health worked on this home for an 82-year-old, low income homeowner who lives with her 54 year old disabled son. On the first day, they focused on interior repairs. The old worn out, leaking kitchen faucet was removed and the kitchen sink replumbed to accept the new kitchen faucet with the extendable sprayer. Water damaged molding at the bottom and sides of the sliding glass door was removed and the door resealed and caulked. New waterproof PVC molding replaced the old molding.

On the second day, for the safety of the homeowner and her son, new LED light fixtures were installed at the front entrance, back entrance, and basement entrance to the house. The whole house was then power washed, especially the ramp, to rid it of the accumulated moss and mildew. Finally, the trees were trimmed away from the house, bushes pruned and shaped, branches

hauled away, and the yard cleaned up. The HELP association helped make these repairs possible. The homeowner said, “They got all of the green stuff off of my house and it looks white like it should. There is no way I could get out there to do all of this work. I am 92 years old.”

**House # 10** Mike Cox coordinated the work on this home with volunteers from Huntingtown United Methodist Church to assist a homeowner with a disability. This project was a follow-up from last year when a group did preliminary work to support the deck before consideration could be given to working on the deck flooring. This year, the team added two 2 x 8 cross beams and two diagonal braces to additionally strengthen and better stabilize the rear deck. The team also replaced all the decking, replaced the cap rail, and took the old lumber to the landfill. It was a good day and the homeowner was extremely pleased. This project was sponsored by Chaney Cares.



**House # 11** Krystal Ringley and Mandi Kuidlan served as house captains for this large number of volunteers from the IET Corporation to assist a senior homeowner. They improved the safety of the home by adding railings to the front stairs and replacing a railing around the entrance to the basement. Three exterior doors and two exterior storm doors were replaced. The homeowner was so pleased with the doors, saying, “Thank God I got the doors. Wind would blow through the old doors.” The volunteers also scraped and painted exterior window trim, the front porch columns, and the

fascia rakes. The gutters were cleaned and the large flower bed in the back yard was mulched and cleaned. The homeowner was very thankful for the improvements and said that the volunteers were so kind and friendly. She was impressed that they took their time on a Saturday to help her when they could be home with their families. This project was sponsored by Walmart and Wawa.



**House # 12** Scott Holt coordinated the work on this home with volunteers from New Life Church to assist this homeowner with visual and physical challenges. The team was extremely flexible and ready to tackle whatever jobs they could to help out the homeowner. One of the team volunteers volunteered to go over a day in advance of their workday to perform the pressure washing in the rain. He said he would be getting wet anyway and why pressure wash and paint on the same day! A second task was to repair and relevel a small landing for the stairs to her two-story side deck/stairs. This was done by jacking up the deck, tamping down the base, adding pea gravel to two holes and placing two large masonry blocks on top. 4 x 4 posts were cut to fit and were bolted to the landing, restoring the deck stairs to a strong usable footing. One side of the house was painted.

Two of the team members tried to blow the debris from the gutters, but the gutters were so clogged that they ended up scooping it all out by hand. Much needed yard work took place with the removal of quite a bit of brush, some small bushes, and a few small saplings. The volunteers consolidated over a dozen wheelbarrow

loads of bricks, cinder blocks, etc. and placed them in a large pit on the property. Over 700 pounds of items were taken to the landfill and approximately 1200 to 1500 pounds of large masonry stones or concrete were taken off site to be disposed of at a later date. This team can't wait for next year!

The homeowner was extremely appreciative and loved the way her yard and house looked once they were done. She said that she had tried to do some outside work and ended up in the hospital. "This was wonderful." This home was sponsored by Cove Point LNG.

**House # 13** This team from Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council #9258 was led by house captain Vince Maldonado and Joe Suarez-Murias. The volunteers started off at Starbucks for camaraderie and a safety briefing before heading off to the job site. Deck improvements were made by being able to use the current deck lumber and adding several footers to improve deck stability. Three sets of side rails around the deck were strengthened to increase sturdiness and safety. The French doors opening onto the deck were also improved. The rain gutter was cleaned on the side which had been completely clogged. Handrails were repaired on the wheelchair ramp and mid-rails were added. The homeowner said, "They did a wonderful job! I tried to talk with all of them because they were so nice." This house was sponsored by Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.

**House # 14** Steve Sanders and Bob Robertson were the house captains for a team of Christmas in April volunteers who responded to a disabled veteran's urgent need for a wheelchair ramp. Last year, Christmas in April built a ramp for him. However, his condition since then has deteriorated and he needed to move to another home to get full-time care. His family agreed to relocating the ramp to his current home.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, a crew disassembled the original 40 foot ramp, replaced a deck railing where the ramp had been attached to the deck, and moved the deck sections in three trucks and a trailer to its new location. On



December 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, another team of volunteers built two ramp sections and completed installing the ramp in the new location. The volunteers were fantastic and got a lot of work done in a very short time frame to help a veteran who really needed some assistance. The family was extremely appreciative. This house was sponsored by Lowes – California, MD and Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.

**House # 15** As always, Christmas in April work day was a challenging, yet fun filled day for those who dedicated their time to this project. These Calvert County Lions Club members, with their families and friends, were led by Brian Owens as house captain. They began with coffee and donuts followed by the first couple tasks, replacing the stairs on the rear deck and hauling many years of family treasures from the basement to the dumpster including at least a dozen cans of latex paint. Who would have suspected someone would have to be sent out to purchase kitty litter for a Christmas in April project? The kitty litter was used to absorb the liquid paint so the landfill would permit it to be disposed of. Learn something new every day!

After a short break, a team replaced the ceiling tile in the basement bedroom. The team made pretty short work of it and continued to repair the ceiling in the adjacent room by first placing insulation where needed, fixing the tracks and installing new tile. Finally, this team wrapped up with a couple of drywall repairs. A second team began replacing the kitchen faucet and, as with most plumbing repairs, this task required several trips for hardware and turned out to be the toughest project of the day. They persevered through all the trials and tribulations and successfully installed the new faucet.

Trying to beat the rain, there was a short lunch, consisting of subs, chips and cookies from Nick's as well as homemade cake provided by the homeowner. After lunch, the volunteers went to work fixing the railings on the basement stairs before finally tackling the replacement of the sliding glass entrance door.

The entire team did an amazing job and demonstrated outstanding teamwork! The homeowner really enjoyed the volunteers and said, "It was great!" The HELP Association and the Calvert County Lions Club sponsored this project.

**House # 16** Five members of Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church and three family members of the homeowner's family teamed up to begin the necessary exterior repairs to the home of this 83-year-old widowed homeowner. Randy Kozik was the house captain for this team. The rear deck and stairs were power washed, fourteen deteriorating deck boards were pried up, replaced, and the deck and stairs were painted with a UV stain to help prevent further sun damage. The front porch entrance was rebuilt with three new front porch support posts and railings firmly anchored in the concrete to replace the missing two posts and railings. The exterior wood on the front porch was painted. All the dry rotted headers and side boards on the two garage entrances were taken down and replaced with newly painted wood trim boards. Finally, over-grown vines and shrubbery under and around the house were removed and trimmed.

This eight-member team provided 108 hours of labor to preserve, maintain, and secure the exterior of the house from the weather for this delighted homeowner. The homeowner exclaimed, "It was a great process and I will marvel at this process for a long time! This is one of the biggest endeavors and most memorable of my life!" This home was sponsored by Sneade's Ace Home Center.



**House # 17** This crew from Friendship Community Baptist Church, led by Fred Noble overcame a number of challenges, including adverse weather, to successfully complete the roof in two days. The 92 year old homeowner was an inspiration to all who helped. The homeowner said that they came at just the right time as the shingles were 30 years old and already leaking. He knew it wouldn't be long before the roof was leaking really bad. He said, "They did a good job! They were my type of people. They had a good time and everything went along fine." This home was sponsored by Constellation Energy.

**House # 18** Dick Alu and Vince Antonioli provided both the leadership and labor for this 95-year-old homeowner. Fiberglass was put on the screened-in porch so that it could be used as an enclosed area which can be heated. The door to the porch was replaced with a piece of removable fiberglass so that it can be removed during the warmer weather and air can come into the house. The homeowner was given a space heater for use on the porch in cooler weather. The homeowner said, "I have been enjoying this porch a lot and I thank you very much." This home was sponsored by Natlie Moore Real estate.



**House # 19** Eighteen volunteers from Life Church and Phelps Water Company, led by Matt Haynes, worked

multiple days in April and May to complete this large project for an 87-year-old homeowner. The first phase of the project included plumbing repairs to the main drain line in the basement, as well as replacing the bathroom faucet and shower head to improve flow. The second and third days concentrated on exterior work which included repairing siding, replacing a down spout, and rebuilding a deck which served as the primary entrance to the home. The team also cleaned up the yard and hauled away treasurers. The homeowner was very thankful for these many improvements. His daughter said, "They did an awesome job." This project was sponsored by Exelon.

**House # 20** This roofing project was contracted out because it was not an appropriate job for Christmas in April volunteers. Bob Robertson coordinated this project with Handyman Construction which did a great job in replacing the roof for the homeowner. The homeowner's daughter said that there have been no leaks and that everything is fine. She expressed her thanks by saying, "Thank you very, very, very much!" This home was sponsored by Pathway Investment Group, LLC.

**House # 21** This older homeowner was in dire need of roof repair. Bob Robertson of the Christmas in April Board of Directors provided the required support to have this work outsourced to Handyman Construction. The homeowner was very pleased to no longer have leaks in her mobile home. This home was sponsored by Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.

**House # 22** This team from Friendship United Methodist Church, with Chuck Muller as house captain, worked this home for a homeowner whose husband had just recently died. The homeowner's family members also worked alongside the volunteers. The team of fourteen volunteers replaced five windows, one door, and cleaned and secured the gutters. All of the trees in the yard were trimmed so that the homeowner could walk under them. Six truckloads of trash from the yard were taken to the landfill. Rotten brick molding was replaced on the outside side door and the deck and outside of the entire house were power washed. The homeowner was thrilled with all of the improvements and said, "They were the sweetest people and they were

so nice.” This home was sponsored by Constellation Energy.

**House # 23** A twelve-member team from Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church was inspired to help this stroke disabled homeowner with much needed repairs to her home. Randy Kozik and Tom Reinecker served as house captains. Eleven thermal paned windows with dry rotted windowsills and portions of their side trim were restored with new sills, side trim, and painted. An 8’ x 10’ storage shed was repaired with a new T-111 front door and siding. The house was power washed along with the front deck of the house that was also painted. The cinder block foundation was painted along with repairing and painting the plywood skirting around the rear addition of the home. Twenty deteriorating boards were cut and pried up and replaced with twenty new 12’ deck boards and 36’ of railing cap was replaced. Flower beds were weeded and a side porch was painted. At the end of each day, the weary team’s spirits were bolstered by the homeowner’s joy and appreciation for their hard work. A reward well earned. The homeowner said, “I am so thankful I was chosen. It was a miracle. The house looks like a new house outside. I am so blessed.” This home was sponsored by Sneade’s Ace Home Center.

**House # 24** Russell Bowie led this team of volunteers from Life Church Youth Group, Constellation Energy, and the Christmas in April Board of Directors on a brisk pre-winter morning in mid-December to replace a failed deck and wheelchair accessible ramp.

Christmas in April was notified of this homeowner in need of a safe ingress/egress to her home. The team demolished the existing deck and ramp and promptly started to reconstruct both structures. A short time later, both the deck and ramp had been rebuilt and all waste was loaded for disposal. This project was planned and staffed only five days prior to its execution. A window was also removed and replaced by Economy Glass. The homeowner relayed her thanks by saying, “Oh my God! It is a blessing. My deck and ramp boards were rotten. I felt like a prisoner in my own house. I am 100% permanently and totally disabled and I was concerned about the Meals on Wheels volunteers coming to my

home. I am so thankful, humble, and grateful.” This home was sponsored by Sneade’s Ace Home Center.

**House # 25** Vada Brooks, a board member from Calvert Lighthouse Church, repaired the roof for this 92-year-old disabled veteran homeowner. This emergency repair became apparent when the homeowner noticed that the water stain and bulge in the ceiling above the kitchen table grew wider and the ceiling sank lower. A section of ceiling drywall was cut out to access the above space. The suspected source of the leak was where the house soffit met the porch roof. The width of the metal flashing was not sufficient to cover this juncture. The old piece of flashing was removed and a new wider piece of 12’ length was cut, bent and replaced. The success of the repair was determined after several heavy rains by the time proven test of a dry pot under the hole in the ceiling. Then, the repair was finalized with the installation of a new 4’ x 5’ piece of drywall. This home was sponsored by Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.



**House # 26** Chris Turner led this team of fifteen volunteers from the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons to make needed repairs on this physically challenged senior widow’s home. The team removed and replaced a leaking closet flange in the main bathroom, repaired soft subflooring, installed new vinyl plank flooring, a new vanity and faucet, and a new ADA compliant commode.

The team also removed a “mountain” of leaves from the yard, freshened up the flower beds, and installed drain tile off of the down spouts. The homeowner said, “Everything was done with professionalism with such compassion and devotion. It is like having someone say ‘It is okay and you can stay in your house. These people go to the nth degree and make you feel very cared about and loved.’” This home was sponsored by Cove Point LNG.

**House # 27** Randy Morgan led this crew of seventeen volunteers from New Life Church to make many needed repairs for this homeowner in her 60s. The bathroom had a problem with water coming in. The source of this was discovered and fixed. The bathroom floor was replaced and a new faucet, sink, and toilet were installed. A handrail was put up on the inside steps and much work was done on the outside of the home. Flower beds were mulched, the yard was cleaned up, and the gutters cleared. Major structural problems remained involving the walls of the house which had deteriorated in places due to water damage from flaws in the home’s design. This type of work was beyond the scope of the Christmas in April volunteers. One of the project’s volunteers, a contractor, will work with the homeowner to make these repairs which should be covered by insurance. The homeowner said, “They did an awesome job. If it hadn’t been for Christmas in April coming, all of this would not have happened.” This home was sponsored by HELP Association.

**House # 28** After starting the day with coffee and donuts, this team, led by Megan Deaton, jumped right into tackling the biggest task for the day: giving the senior homeowner a renewed view of her cul de sac and yard by cutting down a group of bushes and trees that had been growing for over 20 years! Talented master carpenter, Joe Cumberland, joined the team to complete a wonderful railing installation on the front porch. CIA veteran Keith Williams led the effort on repairing a sliding glass door and cutting down various brush and trees to clear the driveway and backyard. The rest of the team worked together with great morale to complete yard work and clearing the front shrubbery. Some fallen insulation in the crawl space was secured and some

additional unwanted items were cleared from the yard for the homeowner.

The team was a mix of returning and new Christmas in April volunteers, all hard working and enthused contributors to the day. The Calvert Bar Association, members of the graduating class of 2022 Leadership Southern Maryland Emerging Leaders Program (LEAP), and St. Nicholas Lutheran Church were represented amongst the team. The homeowner, along with her friends and family joined the group to complete the yard work. It was a great day with a very hard-working team! The homeowner said, “Everything they did just made it so much nicer. If there is anything I can do to help, just call me.” This home was sponsored by Sneade’s Ace Home Center.

**House #29** Volunteers for this home were comprised of twenty-three teens and adults from St. John Vianney Church in Prince Frederick, with Kim Stack as house captain. They removed and cleared their homeowner’s basement of unwanted items. This required several dumpster trips. Outside, all the trees and brush that were threatening the foundation of the house and surrounding yard were removed. The house siding was scrubbed and washed. The old, faded shutters were removed and replaced with new ones. All of the front trim around the windows and front door was painted. Layers of leaves and branches were removed from the yard and all of the unwanted items from the outside yard found under the leaves were hauled off. Her garden pond was repurposed into a flowerbed. In the process of doing this, a surprise was found in the garden pond, “Frank” the turtle. He was relocated to a safer spot. Perennials were mulched and planted alongside the house to help control erosion.

While the team was busy outside, the homeowners were busily cleaning out their cupboards and closets with things to be taken to the dumpster. The entire dumpster was almost filled with all the unwanted items including a desk, bed, dresser, two large trunks and all the other discarded items. The team far surpassed their expectations as well as those of the homeowners. Before the volunteers left, the homeowners inspected our work and were highly pleased with the results. Overall, the

day was a complete success, and the team was able to do it all and pack up before the rain came. Bonus! This project was truly transformational for the homeowner. This project was sponsored by the HELP Association. Support was also provided by Ace Home Center, Calvert County Landfill, Brother's Johnson, the Chesapeake Ranch Club Administration, and Chesapeake Bounty.

**House # 30** Jen Murphy led this team of ten enthusiastic volunteers from the Mill Creek Middle School National Junior Honor Society and the Student Government Association to assist a grandmother, mother, and child. The volunteers cleaned, pruned, reshaped and then mulched flower beds at this Lusby home. The team also cleaned years of deposits from the gutters and hauled away multiple yard treasures. The homeowner was delighted with the work and the appearance of her home. This house was sponsored by Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church.

**House # 31** Tom Jones led this team of volunteers from Calvert County Government to assist a homeowner, her daughter, and her two grandchildren. The volunteers were all over the home, both inside and out, working hard to improve the house for this family. A new vent fan was installed in a bathroom, a closet door and a bedroom door were replaced and a lock was changed on one of the outside doors, the home was power washed, and landscaping took place. Plumbing repairs were made and all of the old light bulbs were changed to LED bulbs. Safety issues addressed included installing new ten-year battery-operated smoke detectors throughout the house. Maintenance was performed on the HVAC system. The homeowner said, "Everyone who came here was fantastic and respectful and asked me if there was anything else I needed to have done." This home was sponsored by SMECO.

**House # 32** Keith Williams from St. Nicholas Lutheran Church made needed repairs to this homeowner's air conditioning unit. Multiple leaks were identified and repaired, filters were replaced, and the freon was charged to the system. The homeowner said that she was enjoying every minute of the air conditioning and thank you. This home was sponsored by St. Nicholas Lutheran Church.



**House # 33** John Yoe led volunteers from the Calvert County Democratic Women's Club as repairs were made on this home for a mother and her three children. The basement/patio door had not been shutting correctly and the team secured the door frame to the house. A roof was put on the shed and a screen door was replaced. The outside light fixtures were broken and the fixtures were replaced to improve the safety of the residents. The homeowner is well pleased with the work and said, "Everything has gone well!" This project was sponsored by SMECO.

**House # 34** Volunteers from Friendship Community Baptist Church, with Fred Noble as house captain, did a great job in power washing the siding and ramp for this elderly homeowner. A railing was added to the ramp to improve its safety. The ramp was transformed from looking old and gray to looking almost new. The homeowner loved the transformation! She said, "I am very pleased, very pleased! They did a beautiful job." This project was sponsored by the HELP Association.

**House # 35** Matt Haynes led this crew of 17 volunteers from Life Church as they made multiple repairs to this senior lady's home over a three day period. The repairs included, but were not limited to, replacing the bathroom faucet and showerhead, installing smoke and CO detectors, and replacing a storm door. Cabinets and a countertop were installed in the upstairs living room along with a refrigerator, toaster oven, and microwave. Having lived in this home for 35 years, the homeowner

was now finding it difficult to go down the stairs to use the kitchen which was located in the basement. This new arrangement will help to greatly reduce the number of trips needed to travel the steps. The team also completed repairs on an exterior staircase, painted, cleaned the gutters, and cleaned, reshaped, and mulched all of her flower beds. The homeowner said, "All went well. I especially appreciate the convenience of not having to go downstairs so much." This home was sponsored by Exelon.



**House # 36** This team consisted of four highly skilled workers, led by James Jackson and working under the banner of Smithville United Methodist Church. This is the second year they have worked on the home for this 80-year-old widow. In February, during their initial inspection, they found a faulty transformer and returned and replaced it. The team restored baseboard heating when it was needed. A walking ramp was built for the side door porch, which is not accessible for a wheelchair ramp. A new storm door handle and lock were installed. New flooring was added in the laundry room. This necessitated moving the washer, dryer, and refrigerator. This "small" job took four hours and two workers. When this was completed, a new dryer vent was added. Two sets of blinds were installed and two light fixtures added with energy efficient bulbs. The homeowner said, "Thank you, thank you, thank you! The volunteers were so nice and made me feel like I have known them all my life." This project was sponsored by Smithville United Methodist Church with support from Thomas Miller Electric and Cleary Home Improvements.

**House # 37** Bob Robertson and Randy Kozik, members of the Christmas in April Board of Directors, responded immediately to this request made at the beginning of March for emergency heating repairs. Arrangements were made with S. F. Jones Heating and Cooling LLC for installation of a new furnace which took place within a few days of the recognized need. The homeowner said, "The furnace is working fine and I appreciate it, especially on the chilly nights." This project was sponsored by the HELP Association.

**House # 38** George Carter led this team of volunteers from the Concerned Black Men of Calvert County, with volunteer support from the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and Huntingtown United Methodist Church. They provided a homeowner with a disability a safe and secure deck. Working over a two-day period, they replaced three sets of deck stairs, rails, and numerous deck boards. These repairs assured the structural integrity of the deck. Multiple loads of waste were also hauled to the landfill. This project was sponsored by SMECO.

**House # 39** Charlie Rodger, house captain, led this team of volunteers from New Life Church to make significant improvements for this homeowner with a disability. One of the biggest improvements was to install a vent fan in a bathroom that previously had no window or fan. The team also installed flooring and trim in the foyer, made drywall repairs, and power washed the exterior. The homeowner was very pleased to have smoke detectors installed as she had had none in the house before. She had never had a light by her front door and, thanks to the team now has one. A very productive day for all! The homeowner said, "I was so emotional and thankful that all these people were here to help me. I am very thankful." This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

**House # 40** Keith Williams led this team of volunteers from St. Nicholas Lutheran Church. The team adjusted a sliding glass door, constructed a small handrail for a deck/stairway, poured a small concrete pad for another stairway, and installed a paver at the entry door. Last, but not least, they repaired the homeowner's lawnmower. The homeowner said, "They really helped

me a lot. I like the handrail on the deck and the concrete pad is just where it needs to be.” This house was sponsored by St. Nicholas Lutheran Church.

**House # 41** Steve and Vada Brooks of Calvert Lighthouse Church worked this project on a May Sunday morning. The team originally planned to replace a single window for this senior widow but, as they got into the job, they quickly discovered issues with the wall/roof interface. They gathered the necessary material from inventory and then proceeded to make the needed repairs, finally replacing the window. This house was sponsored by Constellation Energy.

**House # 42** Christmas in April worked closely with volunteers from Middleham and St. Peter’s Parish, with Russell Bowie as house captain, to construct a small entry ramp for a 96-year- old county resident. This was an “emergency” project as she could not be released to come home from a care facility until the ramp was installed. The ramp was 8’ long and facilitated her ability to negotiate the one step into her house. The homeowner, who lives alone, said, “This is the best thing that has happened to me. You all have done a fantastic job for me. This is Christmas in April and May and June and July for me.” This house was sponsored by Middleham & St. Peters Parish.

Christmas in April also provided labor, with limited funds, for several non-profit agencies.



**Projects # 61, 62, 63, and 68** Christmas in April provided support to the Project Echo Thrift and Gift Shop on four separate occasions. Project Echo, located in Prince Frederick, “is a non-profit volunteer agency that provides emergency shelter and transitional housing to the homeless of Calvert County.” The Thrift and Gift Shop supports their program. In October, Christmas in April’s assistance was requested to replace the roof on the Shop’s patio. Bob Robertson served as house captain. The roof was leaking which required their volunteers to cover merchandise in that section of the store. The mission was to replace a dangerous, unsafe porch roof so that Calvert County citizens could shop without fear of a roof collapse. Early on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, a team began stripping old shingles off the roof and replacing the rotted plywood. They installed a new drip edge, water shield, underlayment, and shingles. The team finished its work, including cleanup, in about five and a half hours – a testament to how well team members worked together. Calvert County citizens can now shop in total safety at the Project Echo Thrift and Gift Shop. The Christmas in April team quietly disappeared, ready to be called to its next assignment. The store manager was extremely happy!

Project Echo work continued on November 28 and 29 as Christmas in April’s Giving Tuesday project. Russell Bowie, Randy Kozik, Bob Robertson, Phil Klohr, and Matt Haynes, all Christmas in April board members, served as house captains. The scope of work included, but was not limited to: re-aligning the front entrance gate, removal of about a 20’ privacy fence, grading of the parking lot, relocating an 8’ x 10’ shed, removing ten trailer loads of brush and trees surrounding the property, and cleaning the rain gutters. The exterior of the building, the door, retaining wall and privacy fence were painted. Kirk Swain, president of the Board of Directors, provided thanks by writing, “I’ve never seen a crew that worked more efficiently, nonstop to the finish, than the one you (Russell) and Steve brought on Monday and Tuesday. It was like a swarm of worker bees hit that place, focused on the goals, and ready to go to work.”

Sneade’s Ace Home Center provided all of the paint and painting supplies. Life Church supplied all materials needed to clean and prep the building. A. H. Hatcher

supplied all of the needed mulch. Constellation Energy and Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant provided lunch for both workdays. Support also came from Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, the Calvert County Department of Solid Waste, and PEPCO.

In January, multiple members from the Board of Directors of Christmas in April led this final task of a project to restore and preserve the Project Echo Thrift and Gift Shop. Improvements were made to the very busy parking lot. The parking lot was cleaned, two large telephone poles were positioned for a “parking lot” curb and about 46 tons of CR-6 were spread, leveled, and packed. The parking lot was then painted with stripes to define 23 parking spaces. Chaney Enterprises supported this work by assisting the team with a site supervisor as well as two truckloads of CR-6. This project was sponsored by the Chaney Cares Foundation.

Again, in June, Christmas in April volunteers stepped in to help the Project Echo Thrift and Gift Shop when it was in dire need of additional permanent shelving. The team ingeniously converted doors to shelves attached to the walls and had legs made from 4 x 4s. This was a huge improvement over the temporary shelving that had been in place earlier. This project was led by a team from Huntingtown United Methodist Church.

**Projects # 64 and 66** The HELP Association operates a Thrift Store in Owings and uses its’ proceeds to support non-profit organizations. HELP has generously supported Christmas in April over the years. This year, this very worthy non-profit needed a metal roof modification to bridge the gap between the metal roof sheltering the length of the 40-foot working area and the roof of the thrift store building. This modification was designed by board member Glenn Phelps of Cave to Castle Remolding and constructed with the help of board members and volunteers from Constellation Energy. An additional 56 foot of gutter with two 6 inch downspouts were added to carry the additional volume of water from the roof.

With these improvements, HELP Association volunteers could work without rainwater splashing down beside them as they sorted and folded clothes outside on six

sturdy 8 foot tables. This work was completed in January. Lunch was sponsored by Cave to Castle Remodeling and the project was sponsored by Constellation Energy.

Later in the year, Randy Kozik led a multi-disciplined team over a period of four days to make needed repairs and improvements to protect the physical assets at the HELP Association Thrift Store. The team started out by replacing leaky weather stripping in both entrance doors, installing an LED entry way light, installing drain tile on gutter downspouts to divert water away from the structure, troubleshooting security cameras, parging a concrete block wall, and pressure washing the entire building.

Working through the typical summer weather (heat, humidity, and thunderstorms) in Maryland, the team worked multiple days in June and July to finish the remaining prep work, prior to painting the building on a seasonal summer day, July 10<sup>th</sup>. This project was sponsored by the Board of Directors of Christmas in April.

**Project # 65** Teams of Christmas in April volunteers from Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church worked multiple days at Patuxent Habitat for Humanity Restore. The teams removed multiple tons of unsaleable material to the landfill, reorganized storage and display throughout the Restore, as well as repairing doors, drywall, and plumbing leaks. The teams then applied a fresh coat of paint to the office areas and sales counter.





**Project # 67** Christmas in April also supported SMILE Inc, a non-profit located in Lusby. SMILE is an ecumenical community outreach ministry to “enable people of all denominations to work together to provide food, clothing, and other forms of assistance and support for those in need.” This is done through their operation of a Thrift Shop and Food Pantry. Christmas in April, in partnership with Cove Point LNG and SMILE Inc., performed upgrades to the food storage area of the Food Pantry and the furniture sales area of the Thrift Shop. This was a 2-phase project. Russell Bowie of Christmas in April was over-all coordinator of the project.

Phase 1: The construction of a new 9’ by 12’ storage room for easier food handling and storage. Cove Point LNG stepped up to the plate with skilled craftsmen who stick-built walls, shelves, and an access door for the new storage room. Cove Point LNG also provided all materials for the phase. The craftsmanship was outstanding and the final product really blended into the overall interior store appearance. In addition, several other folks from Cove Point LNG provided the labor to relocate all the stored goods from the old storage location to the new area. They also disassembled and removed all the old shelving and other materials that were no longer needed. Smile volunteers painted the room the following week. Lastly, a small crew of Christmas in April and SMILE volunteers returned to install more shelves to facilitate better storage of food products.

Phase 2: The remodeling of the furniture sales area. SMILE volunteers moved all shelving away from the walls of the area. The walls were then stripped of the old peg-board panels and numerous objects to reveal multi-colored walls and storage shelving framework. The crews then installed bead-board to the shelving frames and patched and primed all the holes in the existing walls. Finally, the room was completely repainted to add a brightness to the area. The shelves were repositioned against the walls and the place was set up for business the next day.

*Christmas in April\*Calvert County, Inc. A United Way Member Agency*



P.O. Box 2761  
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[www.christmasinaprilcalvertcounty.org](http://www.christmasinaprilcalvertcounty.org)

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*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.*



## *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 at 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 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 Home 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. Others work behind the scenes, preparing lunches, and providing logistic support. 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 was completed. **The Board follows up until all work is finished.**

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

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