



Christmas in April*Calvert County, Inc.

www.ChristmasInAprilCalvertCounty.org

Volume 13

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Fall 2024

2024 Year in Review: Christmas in April Calvert County's Expanding Reach

As we reflect on 2024, we are proud to share the milestones and progress that Christmas in April Calvert County has achieved. This year has been a remarkable one, marked by growth and a deepened commitment to improving the lives of those in our community.

Making a Difference in 2024

Throughout the year, we completed work on 49 homes, providing much-needed repairs and improvements to both new and returning recipients. Of these homes, 25 were new to our program, while 24 were homes we've had the privilege to work on in the past, highlighting the ongoing relationships we've nurtured in our community. In addition to residential projects, we also proudly supported three local non-profit facilities—the HELP Association, Patuxent Habitat for Humanity, and the Calvert County Humane Society.

With 123 applications submitted this year, we visited 95 homes, ensuring that those meeting our criteria received the necessary help to improve their quality of life.

Serving Our Community

In total, we were able to assist 99 residents this year, spanning different ages and backgrounds.

The average length of time homeowners have lived in their homes is 31.2 years, underscoring the deep-rooted connection these families have with their residences.

A significant portion of our efforts this year went toward making homes more accessible for individuals with disabilities. 35 homes were modified to better serve the needs of residents with mobility or accessibility challenges. We also proudly served 5 veterans, honoring their service with much-needed home improvements.

Our work impacted residents of all ages:

- 14 children under the age of 17
- 38 adults between 18 and 64
- 47 seniors aged 65 and older

This year, we made substantial strides in addressing a wide array of home improvement needs, focusing on creating safer and more comfortable living conditions for residents.

Some key achievements include:

- 38 homes received modifications to enhance accessibility, improving day-to-day living for many.
- 39 homes incorporated green building elements: promoting energy, water, and resource efficiency, improving indoor air quality, and educating homeowners on sustainability practices.

Empowering Through Volunteerism

Christmas in April Calvert County thrives thanks to the tireless dedication of our volunteers. This year, we were fortunate to have 570 volunteers join us—295 skilled and 275 unskilled—who contributed a total of 9,959 hours. Of these, 8,159 hours were provided by skilled volunteers, and 1,800 hours were contributed by unskilled helpers. These individuals are the backbone of our organization, and their contributions allow us to reach even more residents in need.

Building a Legacy

Since our founding in 1991, Christmas in April Calvert County has repaired 1,153 homes and non-profit facilities, leaving a lasting legacy of service, compassion, and community support.

Looking Forward to 2025

As we move into 2025, we are excited to continue building on this year's successes. With your help, we will keep pushing forward, helping more residents and further strengthening the fabric of our community. Together, we can make Calvert County a better place for everyone.

Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in our mission. Every contribution, whether in time or resources, has made a tangible difference, one home at a time.

Board of Directors:

Russell Bowie, President
 Randy Kozik, Vice President
 Patricia Pringle, Secretary
 Sean McGowan, Treasurer
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 Richard Alu
 Steve Brooks
 Vada Brooks
 Beth Carter
 Larry Carter
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Honorary Board Members

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House Selection Committee

Carolyn Mohler, Chairperson	Jon Gifford
Dick Alu	Phil Kholr
Vince Antonioli	Randy Kozik
Pat Baumann	Natalie Moore
Russell Bowie	Glenn Phelps
Vada Brooks	Pat Pringle
Steve Brooks	Tom Reinecker
Beth Carter	Bob Robertson
Larry Carter	Steve Sanders
Christa Conant	Donna Sisson
	Guffrie Smith

House Sponsors

Calvert County Lions Club	Lowes
Cave to Castle Remodeling	Maryland Affordable Housing Trust (18)
Cedar Point Credit Union	Pathway Investment Group (3)
Chaney Cares (2)	Patuxent Habitat for Humanity (2)
Country Side LLC	QLarent Foundation (2)
Constellation Energy (5)	Smeco
Cove Point LNG (3)	SMILE
Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church (3)	St. Nicholas Lutheran Church (3)
HELP Association (8)	Smithville United Methodist Church
SJ Johnson	Sneade's Ace Hardware (2)

House Captains and House Partners

Calvert County Lions Club	Emerging Leadership Southern	National Junior Honor Society of Calvert
Brian Owens	Maryland Class of 2024	Middle School
Calvert County Board of Education	Emily Johnson	Amanda Tyndall
Steve Brooks	Friendship Community Baptist Church	National Junior Honor Society of Mill Creek Middle School
Calvert County Democratic Women's Club	Fred Noble	Jen Murphy
John Yoe	Friendship United Methodist Church	Ben Keys
Calvert Grace Community Church	Chuck Muller	New Life Church
Warren Courtney	Ken Reynolds	Randy Morgan
Calvert County Government	Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church (4)	Scott Holt
Tom Jones	Beth Carter	Charles Rodger
Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center	Larry Carter	Pathways Investment Group (2)
Calvert Lighthouse Church	Huntingtown United Methodist Church (3)	Mike Cox
Steve Brooks	Bob Robertson	Smithville United Methodist Church
Vada Brooks	Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church (3)	Steve Clearly
Cave to Castle Remodeling	Randy Kozik	Dave Fondelier
Glenn Phelps	Tom Reinecker	James Jackson
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory	Knights of Columbus Council #9258	Tom Miller
Chris Turner	Vince Maldonado	St John Vianney Catholic Church
Concerned Black Men of Calvert County Inc.	Joe Suarez-Murias	Kim Stack
George Carter	Operation Raise the Roof	St. Nicholas Lutheran Church
Cove Point LNG (2)		Keith Williams
Susie Lopez	Men's Group of Life Church	
Emerging Leaders: Leadership	Calvert	
Southern Maryland lass of 2022	Mike Frederick	
Megan Deaton	Matt Haynes	

**Thank You Christmas in April*Calvert County Partners: Volunteers, Businesses, Churches,
Organizations and Individuals, who donated money, material, time and skills for the 2024 work year.**

A H Hatcher
 Alexander Chiropractic
 Amy Drury
 America's Charity
 Atlantic Rotors
 Bay View Title
 Berkshire Hathaway
 Bob and Janet Robertson
 Brother's Johnson
 Calvert Bar Association
 Calvert Cliff Nuclear Power Plant Retirees
 Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
 Calvert County Board of Education
 Calvert County Democratic Women's Club
 Calvert County Solid Waste Division
 Calvert County Government
 Calvert County Lions Club
 Calvert County Office on Aging
 Calvert County Register of Wills
 Calvert County Times
 Calvert Grace Community Church
 Calvert Health
 Calvert Lighthouse Church
 Calvert Middle Sch. Nat. Jr. Honor Society
 Cave to Castle Remodeling
 Cedar Point Federal Credit Union
 Chaney Cares
 Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
 Chesapeake Bounty
 Chesapeake Ranch Club Admin.
 Christa Conant
 Cleary Home Improvements
 Clint and Teresa Ashley
 COBank
 Concerned Black Men of Calvert County.

Constellation Energy
 Cove Point LNG
 Darlene Harrod
 David & Donna Haarz
 Debra and Robert Kimble
 Encompass Enterprises
 Economy Glass
 Exelon
 Friendship Community Baptist Church
 Friendship United Methodist Church
 God's Bounty
 Handyman Construction LLC
 Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church
 HELP Association
 Home Builders Care Fund
 Huntingtown United Methodist Church
 IET Corporation
 Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church
 Jim and Dale Yoe
 Jeff Corby
 Jeffrey York
 Joseph Thompson
 Julie A Zinneman
 Justin Allen
 Keith and Vicki Williams
 Kenneth Kerns
 Knights of Columbus #9258
 Leadership Southern Maryland
 LEAP graduating class 2022
 Lexington Park Dentistry
 Life Church
 Life Church Youth Group
 Lowe's – California, MD
 Margaret McCarthy
 Meagan Deaton

Middleham & St. Peter's Parish
 Mike and Deborah Cox
 Mill Creek Middle School National Junior
 Honor Society & Student Gov. Assoc.
 Natalie Moore Real Estate
 New Life Church Calvert
 Our Lady Star of the Sea
 Pat Pringle
 Pathway Investments
 Patuxent Habitat for Humanity
 Paul Hayden & Sons Plumbing
 PEPCO
 Phelps Water Company
 Phillip Klohr
 Project ECHO Thrift and Gift Store
 Richard and Ellen Berry
 Richard Blasy
 Richard Ciabattoni
 Robert Marino
 Ron Thomas
 S. Curran
 Sean McGowan CPA
 SF Jones Heating and Cooling
 SMECO
 SMILE Ecumenical Services, Inc.
 Smithville United Methodist Church
 Sneade's ACE Home Center
 Southern MD News
 St. John Vianney Catholic Church
 St. Nicholas Lutheran Church
 The Wothman Law Firm
 Thomas Miller Electric
 Walmart
 WAWA



Tentative Calendar 2024-2025

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

September 2024

September 30: Applications due for the 2025 Christmas in April year.

October 2024

House Selection Committee will visit the homes of applicants.

November 2024

The Board tentatively approves houses to be repaired for 2024.

December 2024

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

January 2025

Homeowners will begin to be notified of application decisions.

January/February 2025

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 2025

Preparations continue for the Annual Workday

April 2025

April 26: Annual Workday

May 2025

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 2024.

“I am so blessed to have such kind and caring people come into my life.”

“It was like the ramp gave me energy. I thank God for the ramp.”

“Without Christmas in April, I would feel like I was stuck in the house all day.”

“Safety is the main priority as my husband is disabled. I cried many happy tears.”

“They gave a lift to my morale.”

“The new door out to the deck opens a new world to me. It brings so much sunshine into my life.”

“The ceiling was about to collapse. This is one burden we no longer have to think about.”

Quotes from 2024 recipients.

House # 1 Bonnie Morris led a team of volunteers from multiple organizations, along with family friends, to construct a wheelchair accessible ramp for a senior lady on August 18th and 19th. The team prefabricated the frame setting of the ramp on Friday and then installed the structure Saturday. Volunteers participated from the following organizations: Maryland State Police (retired) Systems Applications Technology, Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntingtown United Methodist Church, and Constellation Energy Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center. Thanks also goes to the Calvert County Department of Solid Waste.

The homeowner sent a card stating, “I greatly appreciate the time and effort put forth to help my life be more accessible. I am blessed to have such kind and caring people come into my life.” This home was sponsored by the Qlarant Foundation.

House # 2 Christmas in April received an urgent request from the Calvert County Office on Aging for a wheelchair ramp for a senior community member with mobility limitations. Volunteers from Christmas in April, Jesus the Good Shepherd Church, and Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center responded almost immediately. The team, headed by Russell Bowie and Randy Kozik, prefabricated the framing for the ramp and deck on a Thursday. All materials were transported to the site and the ramp (with handrails) was assembled within four hours. According to the homeowner’s sister, the homeowner “loves her ramp. She just loves her ramp!” This project was sponsored by the Qlarant Foundation.

Also, a separate effort was made to replace a defective sump pump in the homeowner’s basement. This replacement was outsourced (funded by Christmas in April) and a new pump was installed.

House # 3 In celebration and recognition of all of our Veterans, Christmas in April celebrated Veterans’ Day on Thursday, November 9th. This very large skilled team of 26 volunteers from Lowes in California, MD, and Constellation Energy Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center performed needed repairs and maintenance for a United States Navy veteran who served during the Vietnam War.

The team built a wheelchair accessible ramp that will serve the homeowner for years to come. They removed an extensive amount of vegetation from on and around the home, recovered the back yard from years of growth, removed a front porch and general clutter causing a safety/fire hazard, and installed a smoke detector. Additionally, the volunteers washed years of dirt and mildew from the siding and windows and attached a porch awning to the structure. The homeowner is appreciative of all of this work and now finds it much easier to access his home and says, “Christmas in April made it real good!!”

Lowes of California, MD supplied all the materials needed for the ramp. Somertyme Tree Services provided tree maintenance services and Constellation Energy Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center provided lunch for the team. This house was sponsored by Lowes and Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.

House # 4 Christmas in April celebrates Thanks for Giving with this project. Randy Kozik and Tom Reinecker led this team of volunteers from Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, St. Nicholas Lutheran Church, Systems Applications and Technology, Constellation Energy, Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Clean Energy Center. The team promptly removed the existing damaged handrails from the porch and then constructed a new 22' wheelchair accessible ramp with a new porch platform. The homeowner said that when she first used the ramp, she “walked all the way down to the car and then walked back, sat down and ate, and then walked to her bedroom. It was like the ramp gave me energy. I thank God for the ramp.” Thanks also goes to the Calvert County Division of Solid Waste. This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 5 This senior homeowner's husband deceased this past summer leaving her with medical and burial expenses and multiple house repairs. The most obvious and crucial need was the septic system. The metal top to the tank had corroded and collapsed into the tank creating an open, gaping 4'x 6' wastewater-filled vault, covered with a 4'x 8' sheet of plywood, leading into a failing drain field. Chaney Cares contributed three truckloads (62-tons) of washed gravel and, with the combined funding from Christmas in April, the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust and the homeowner's family, and Southern Shores Septic. A new system was installed with a 1,500-gallon tank, a 1,000-gallon pump pit, a 10-hole distribution box, and forty-five-foot drain field trench filled with sixty-two tons of washed gravel. They worked through a week of rain and managed to have the system connected for moderate use after the first day.

On the April 27th workday, the Friendship United Methodist Church team, led by skilled craftsmen Ken Reynolds, Tommy Evans, Rob Adams, and Craig Ryan, along with sixteen volunteers went to work with multiple improvements to this home over a span of two days. The most significant repairs were: eight metal case windows were removed, reframed, and eight vinyl double-paned insulated windows installed; a 6 ft. inoperable and clouded patio door was removed, reframed and replaced with a 6 ft. low-ARG sliding patio door; the existing stairs to the deck were removed and replaced with a new set of stairs with 12 steps up to the deck; all the 5/4" board flooring on the deck surface was removed and replaced; and the existing posts and railings were reinforced or replaced as needed. Interior work included ceiling and drywall repairs and smoke detectors replaced. The homeowner exclaimed, “I can now open

and close my windows, keep the cold air inside in the summer, open them up in the fall and spring, close them back up in the winter, and save expenses.” She also exclaimed, “I can actually walk out onto my deck and use my stairs!” This home was sponsored by Natalie Moore Real Estate, the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust, and the Chaney Cares Foundation.

House # 6 Jesse Pape from Countryside Services LLC led this project to make repairs for an older couple. This two-day project consisted of re-grading an existing driveway that had severe erosion to the point where water was running to the home. On day two, upon completion of the regrade, 46 tons of CR-6 were added to the driveway ensuring proper pitch and drainage. One of the homeowners expressed her thanks by saying, “I appreciate it all. God knows I do. We just couldn't do that. Jesse worked faithfully hard for us. People are so excited for us.” This project was co-sponsored by Countryside Services LLC and the Chaney Cares Foundation.



House # 7 Volunteers from the Calvert County Lions Club, with Brian Owens serving as house captain, repaired the hazardous deck and steps for this military veteran and his wife. They started their day with coffee and donuts, a safety meeting, and a description of the work being done. They made pretty quick work of the deck repairs, replacing the deck floor, stair treads, and parts of the railing. The homeowners were very happy with the access and exit from their home. The wife said, “The steps are better supported underneath now and they are sturdy. I feel much safer. They also improved the railings on the other steps to my home.”

At a later date, Somertyme Tree Services removed three large trees which were growing close to their home.

This has increased the security provided to these homeowners by Christmas in April.

This home was sponsored by Patuxent Habitat for Humanity and Lowes.

House # 8 This homeowner contacted Christmas in April in great distress after receiving a first notice from her insurance company that her homeowner's insurance would be canceled in three weeks if her roof was not replaced. She had been unaware of this need and neither she, nor Christmas in April, could negotiate with the insurance company to change the situation. Due to the emergency nature of the situation, Handyman Construction LLC was contracted to replace the roof which they did by the required deadline. This homeowner, the widow of a veteran was exceedingly relieved and grateful to Christmas in April for its responsiveness in meeting her need. This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.



House # 9 During a home visit as part of its application process, Christmas in April became aware of an emergency heating need. The homeowner was concerned about unusual odors from his furnace. At Christmas in April's request, S. F. Jones Heating and Cooling examined the furnace, found that it was unsafe to run (a crack in the heat exchanger), and immediately shut it down. Christmas in April contracted S. F. Jones to replace the furnace which was accomplished extremely fast. Many thanks to S. F. Jones for quickly helping to correct a dangerous situation! This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 10 The Calvert County Democratic Women's Club, guided by John Yoe, house captain, made numerous home improvements for this older couple. The volunteers replaced two smoke detectors, one storm door, and exterior door locks. In the kitchen, the dishwasher and sink faucet were replaced. Interior door handles were exchanged for lever style door handles for easier accessibility. Handrails were installed on the stairs from the foyer to the upper level. Additionally, six window screens were replaced, after being constructed from parts, and the flower beds were weeded and mulched. The homeowner said, "It was perfect! They made it so much easier for me to be in my home. I couldn't turn the knobs to open the doors. I can now work the doors and I have a new railing that is sturdy. Without Christmas in April, I would feel like I was stuck in the house all day." This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 11 The services required by this 61-year-old lady with special mobility needs were contracted out. Her washer and dryer were located on the basement floor of her house. It was a major ordeal (as well as unsafe) for her to negotiate the steps to the basement, especially carrying laundry. In addition, she needed a stable handrail from her front porch, down the steps, and out to her driveway. The current handrail had a large gap, leaving her with nothing to grasp to keep her balance.

The first part of this project was to install new electrical, plumbing, and dryer ventilation in the new location upstairs. Utilities had to be configured to support the new unit. This was completed by a local licensed contractor, Encompass Enterprises Inc. When the new laundry unit donated by her family arrives, Christmas in April will assist with the installation. The second part of the project was to repair the outside handrail. A welder, Bodnar Welding, was contracted and the installation of the new handrail was completed. SMILE Ecumenical Ministries donated the funds to complete this project in its entirety and sponsored this home.

The owner sent her thanks in writing to Christmas in April and all involved and stated, "The work done by the dedicated volunteers and professionals has transformed my house into a safe, comfortable, and beautiful space that I am proud to call home, and have become less worried about falling. Your kindness and compassion

have touched my heart in ways that words cannot fully express.”

House # 12 A large team of students and parents from the Patuxent High School National Honor Society made many improvements for this single mother. Jim Oster served as house captain. Her deck was built with boards flushing against one another. Without gaps and with twenty plus years of rain and weather, the boards had begun to rot. Replacing the boards and the stairs leading up to the deck took up the majority of the workday since the deck was around 800 square feet.

The team also did yard work in her spacious back yard where there was substantial leaf accumulation after a few years. One of the groups spent the morning and early afternoon raking leaves and removing them from the yard. After that, the team worked on mulching, cutting grass, and trimming the bushes. In the end, four-fifths of the deck and two of her staircases were replaced, a dumpster was filled with leaves and deck boards, and all of the yardwork she asked for was completed. The area under her deck was also resurfaced to prevent water from flowing towards her house and through the foundation. The homeowner said, “It was fantastic and I am so thankful. My home is a lot safer. Everyone was so good and polite and worked hard.”

Mulch was provided by A. H. Hatcher, a dumpster was supplied by Capitol Area Bin There Dump That, and lunch was supplied by BHE GT&S. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 13 This year’s team from Chesapeake Biological Research lab, with Christopher Turner as house captain, really enjoyed their project house this year. They were able to replace the steps and handrail on the front porch of the home, improving safety and the aesthetic of the entryway. The team also replaced the weather stripping on the storm door, improving energy efficiency, and installed a new sliding glass door on the rear deck, also improving safety because the existing one would not function correctly. A new set of stairs and handrails were built, enabling easy access to a lower-level bedroom, again improving the safety of the home. Sections of the deteriorated decking boards were replaced and a gate at the stairs on the rear deck was repaired, adding strength to the structure to increase its

safety. The team also corrected some electrical work in the bathroom, adding a GFCI outlet that brings the bathroom electric up to the current code. Lastly, the volunteers installed some smoke and CO detectors, adding a measure of protection against fire.

One of the homeowners said, “Safety is the main priority as my husband is disabled and I have a young grandchild here. I appreciate 100% what the volunteers have done for us. I cried so many happy tears. They showered us with love. There is no way we could have afforded all of this.” This home was sponsored by the HELP Association and the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.



House # 14 Christmas in April needed to replace the gutters on a Calvert County home. It was beyond work that could be done safely by volunteers. Christmas in April, through Bob Robertson, contracted the project out to Rhodes Seamless Gutters. Rhodes quickly got its team to the site, removed the old gutters, and installed new, better designed gutters. The homeowner was delighted with their work, calling the team amazing! Well done Rhodes Seamless Gutters! The homeowner said, those men were in and out of here in three hours! They did a wonderful job.” This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.



House # 15 On a cold morning in February, the Huntingtown United Methodist Youth Group, with the guidance of Bob Robertson as house captain, gathered to make much needed repairs on a wheelchair ramp. They replaced rotted deck boards and made a number of improvements to the railing system by replacing all the top rails, as well as the handrails, and adding lower horizontal rails. These improvements greatly increased the ramp's safety and improved its appearance. The team worked very efficiently and effectively and enjoyed pizza at lunch. Comments from the homeowner included, "I am not afraid to use the ramp now. I enjoyed having the youth here and they really worked hard. God Bless You." The team was also happy with the results. A great day! The home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 16 Steve and Vada Brooks led this team of volunteers that performed work for a senior homeowner over a two-day period. The team replaced a basement window, installed weather stripping in the front door, and repaired an interior door. The appreciative homeowner said, "Everything was wonderful, wonderful! I can't see daylight by the door anymore and air is no longer coming in the window." Team members were from the Calvert Lighthouse Church, Fifth

Management Consultants, and the Calvert County Board of Education. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 17 This team of twenty volunteers, including youth, from Harvest Fellowship Church, was led by Larry and Beth Carter. Prior to the workday, J. Calvin Wood was called to the house to provide water mitigation, as the crawl space was a swimming pool from drainage from all of the lots above. The crawl space never dried out. A swale was cut on two and a half sides of the house, in order to drain the property.

On the workday, the volunteers built new steps on the back of the house, under the sliding glass door, and repaired the threshold and rotted trim at the base of the door. On the front of the house, the porch was reinforced and a 3' x 16' walkway was removed. The new walkway measures 4' x 16'. The downhill end of the walkway, at the base of the porch stairs, has an added security railing. The wife is in stage four cancer and is sometimes weak. The group wanted to ensure her safety exiting and entering her home. The homeowner was very pleased and thankful for the work done on her house. This home was sponsored by the Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church and the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 18 Steve and Vada Brooks led this team from the Calvert County Board of Education and Fifth Management Consultants to remove and replace two windows in the home of a 77 year old woman living alone. According to the homeowner, "The windows had been ill fitting and had a big crack across them with a lot of air coming in. They did a beautiful job!"

This home was also in need of a roof. The roof was too steep for Christmas in April volunteers so Christmas in April once again partnered with a local contractor, Handyman Construction LLC (HMC) to get the job done. To reduce the costs, HMC was able to obtain high quality shingles donated from Beacon Building Products. As always, HMC did a wonderful job and the homeowner loves her new roof which will keep her safe and dry for years to come. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 19 Students from the Student Government Association and the National Junior Honor Society of Mill Creek Middle School, led by Jennifer Murphy and Benjamin Keys, completed yard work for the home. They raked leaves, pulled weeds, and power washed the side of the house. This team had a really fantastic turn out with eleven students volunteering their day to helping out another person without expectation of reward. These students made sure to make the house as beautiful as possible! They made sure to pull off all vines and pull out all weeds. They also raked a vast majority of the yard and removed many leaves. The homeowner was very complimentary of the work performed by this team. “The kids were just absolutely marvelous! They were a good group of kids and worked well together. I really appreciate it and thank them very much.” This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 20 Heather Woodward led this very talented multi-skilled team from DCS Corporation. The team made needed repairs to a senior homeowner’s home which included replacing three failed baseboard heating units, correcting two electrical problems, repairing gutters and downspouts, washing the siding, and recovery and mulching of multiple flower beds/gardens. The homeowner’s pleasure and excitement was evident as she said, “I had one heater that was running all of the time and they fixed that. They did a beautiful job on my yard. They did a beautiful job, beautiful! I am well satisfied with it.” This home was sponsored by ACE Hardware.

House # 21 Amanda Tyndall chaired this team of Calvert Middle School National Junior Honor Society students and parents as they worked to improve this home for a female veteran. The volunteers cleaned up her yard and power washed the house. The homeowner remarked, “I extend my gratitude to all the volunteers, with a special mention of the Calvert Middle School National Junior Honor Society. Their involvement gives me confidence in the future of our County and Country. Thank you all sincerely for your help.” “Those kids were awesome!” This home was sponsored by Pathway Wealth Management LLC and Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.



House # 22 When you gather a large group of volunteers, you expect great accomplishments. New Life Calvert volunteers, guided by house captain Randy Morgan, delivered on these expectations big time! Over a three-day period, they completed a huge amount of work ranging from correcting safety problems to improving the longevity of the home. This included replacing a deck and staircase that had so deteriorated that it was unsafe to walk on. The team also replaced siding, painted portions of trim on the house and garage entrance, power washed the exterior, and landscaped the front sidewalk. But wait, there is more! They repaired a bathroom floor; installed new flooring and a vanity, reset a toilet and replaced mildewed drywall in a bedroom. And they did all this work with happy enthusiastic faces! To top it off, the homeowner was a truly delightful person to work with. Using any standard, this project couldn’t have worked out better! Well done New Life Calvert!

The homeowner had much praise for this group. “They did a beautiful job. The whole team worked so hard that day. I am tickled pink. What made it so special was the group. They were a nice spiritual group of young people. My house had gotten in bad shape and the team made such a difference. It was just a beautiful thing they did. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.



House # 23 On March 11, Rhodes Seamless Gutters, under contract with Christmas in April, came to the aid of a Calvert County homeowner suffering from mobility problems. Her home of nearly 40 years lacked gutters on major portions of the roof. The Rhodes team remedied the problem quickly and efficiently. The homeowner was very happy to have this work completed for her.

Then volunteers from St. John Vianney Catholic Church, with Kim Stack as house captain, worked for two days on this home with their biggest concern being the homeowner's safety. On the first day, they cleared the lot of a large dead tree, bushhogged the entire yard of invading brush and small pine trees, replaced her sagging deck and leaky storm door, installed front railings, and built a small ramp attached to the newly replaced deck. On the second day, they removed a 5" to 7" layer of leaves from the entire yard, put up rails for the front porch and ramp, painted the side porch and crawl space doors, hauled unwanted trash away and mowed and trimmed the yard. Over 37 volunteers, including a number of youth, took part in this team effort. The homeowner exclaimed, "I am so blessed. The replacement of the old deck and the small ramp have made a major difference for me in my ability to enter and exit my home. The door is no longer falling down. It is shocking to see all of the messy shrubbery gone and it is so wonderful. They gave a lift to my morale." This home was sponsored by the Cedar Point Federal Credit Union and the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 24 New Life Calvert volunteers, with Ron Rambo as house captain. came to the rescue of a

homeowner facing some significant safety problems. Her home's front concrete steps had separated and dropped an inch and a half below the top of the concrete stoop to which it once been connected. This created a tripping hazard each time someone entered her front door. The team jacked up the steps, added footings, and finished the surface of the steps so they looked new. Most importantly, they were safe - the tripping hazard eliminated! For additional safety, they added railings around the stoop.

The team also installed a sliding patio door going to the back deck of the house. The homeowner had been unable to use the deck because the old slider would not open. To assure that her walk out on the deck was safe, the team power washed some slick deck boards and repaired a railing. The homeowner is so happy to now have another safe exit from her home. She said, "I could use the front steps but they were dangerous and I could not use the back door at all. Everything went well!!" This home was sponsored by the Cedar Point Federal Credit Union and the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 25 This project, led by house captain Megan Deaton, helped an elderly community member. Christmas in April Calvert County volunteers repaired an old front ramp for safe and easy home access. During their workday, they also repaired this senior's back porch with updated handrails and some replacement boards. Additionally, this team of volunteers weeded and mulched her garden, as well as washed her house siding. The homeowner said, "My house is much safer. Thank you very much." A big thank you to Rapid Response Research Group LLC, Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, and Constellation Energy Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center for supporting this project. This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 26 George Carter led this team of Concerned Black Men of Calvert County to make many improvements to the bathroom in the home of this older homeowner. The team strengthened the existing bathroom floor structure, replaced a portion of the subfloor, installed the vinyl plank floor, replaced the vanity, installed three grab bars in and around the shower, and replaced the existing commode with an ADA compliant commode. The homeowner expressed

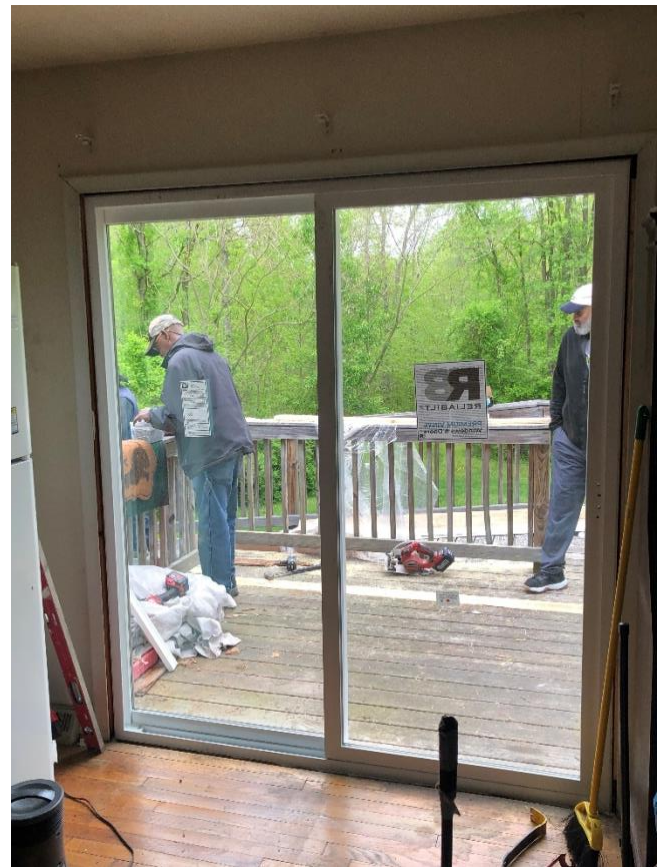
her satisfaction by saying, “The bathroom floor had a major safety problem. Now it is safe. The toilet was also replaced with a higher one. I was told that toilets as low as the one I had before are no longer made.”

She is also thankful for the replacement of her bay window. “I couldn’t even see out of it. Now, it brings in a lot more light.” This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 27 A team of twenty leaders from Leadership Southern Maryland’s 2024 LEAP class worked on this project for a senior widow with multiple medical challenges. Guiding these volunteers were Emily Johnson, Jessica Gaetano, and Taylor Hagen. The team descended upon the home on a rainy day, making needed repairs to her deck, replacing a damaged storm door, and pressure washing the deck, house, ramp, and concrete pad. Throughout all of this activity, a separate group of leaders worked on recovering the yard by removing a dump truck load of “treasures” which were promptly taken to the landfill. Many thanks go to Nottingham Landscaping for their generous donation of mulch.

The homeowner was very emotional when thanking a team of people that she had never met, coming together to assist her. The homeowner said, “Christmas in April was a blessing. Everyone was very nice and cordial and worked well together. They did a super job! It was awesome, it really was.” This home was sponsored by Pathway Wealth Management LLC.

House # 28 Vada and Steve Brooks led this team of five volunteers from Fifth Management Consultants, Calvert Lighthouse Church, and the Calvert County Board of Education. The team removed the existing bathtub and replaced it with a shower. The old sink was removed and replaced with a pedestal sink to allow for greater movement in the bathroom. They also replaced the bathroom flooring and damaged kitchen cabinet. The homeowner explained that she could not get into her previous tub at all. “Everything was very nicely done,” she added. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.



House # 29 Adam Kincaid and the team from Operation Raise the Roof partnered with Christmas in April to remove, repair, and replace the roof of a senior Vietnam War Veteran in early February. The team replaced four pieces of sheathing along with 120’ of plank board to make this leaking roof watertight. The homeowner was thrilled and said they did a wonderful job. He was there the whole time looking at them and is very thankful for the roof work. The homeowner said, “They did a wonderful job and it looks good. Thank you!”

This project was sponsored by Operation Raise the Roof - Valor Roofing. The Operation Raise the Roof website states, “Veterans are the life blood of our nation. Without them, our freedom would cease to exist...We keep veteran families in their homes by providing new roofs for free.”



House # 30 Friendship Community Baptist Church assembled a skilled group of volunteers, led by Robert Waltman, house captain, to help a wonderful ninety-two-year-old homeowner make his home much safer and comfortable. At the top of the team's list of improvements was correcting problems associated with a dangerous set of steep, open stairs to the basement that had no railings. The team built two 2' x4' walls on either side of the staircase, strengthened the staircase's structure, and added railings on both sides. They also replaced an old door to the basement with a new one that correctly opened to the hallway of the first floor – not over the stairs as the previous door had done. These were significant safety improvements, particularly since the homeowner frequently uses the stairs.

This team also installed a much-needed exterior door to the basement. This new door replaced a makeshift combination of an ill-fitting dilapidated old door and blankets. Fitting the new door into a rough, cinder block opening took skill and ingenuity. Finally, the team power washed the home's exterior to make it look like new!

The team from SJ Johnson donated and installed a new hot water heater to provide the homeowner with much needed hot water.

The homeowner enthusiastically praised the team and their work. "The steps are so much better now. They made them stronger, put more braces on, and added a

handrail that I did not have before." This home was sponsored by S.J. Johnson and Constellation Energy Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center.

House # 31 Many volunteers from Mt. Olive United Methodist Church and Adams Carpentry Services, guided by Everard Johnson, house captain, made multiple repairs to the home of this senior widow with disabilities. These activities involved replacing shingles, replacing the patio deck, and power washing the ramp and deck. The toilet was also replaced and smoke detectors installed for her increased safety. The homeowner was very expressive about what these improvements mean to her. "That new door out to the deck opens a whole world to me. The old door was like moving an elephant. It was too much of a struggle for me to go sit on the deck with my cats and now I can do that. The old door was also a fire hazard. It is now crystal clear to look out the door to see. These men quietly moved in and started to work. They never boast about what they do, they just do it. It was a yeoman's job and I appreciate it. It brings so much sunshine into my life." Thanks also go to Johnson Septic Services for their support of the work on the home. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 32 Warren Courtney led this team of volunteers from Calvert Grace Church to work on the house of a 95 year old homeowner. The volunteers completed needed repairs to assist this homeowner to remain safely in her home. The team's first task was to repair a roof leak and reflash the chimney. Once the leak was verified to be corrected, the team returned to replace some damaged ceiling tile. The homeowner was very appreciative of these repairs made by Christmas in April. This house was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 33 Steve Sanders and Russell Bowie of the Christmas in April Board installed a set of grab bars at the entrance to the house from the enclosed front porch to assist this 97-year-old homeowner and her family to having a safe ingress/egress point to the home. The homeowner's daughter said, "These grab bars work beautifully for my mother and she is now much safer in the house." This home was sponsored by the HELP association.

House # 34 Keith Williams from St. Nicholas Lutheran Church led this team of volunteers on a seasonal Saturday in February. The team had planned to remove some vinyl plank flooring in the bedroom in a mobile home, replace the subfloor, and then reinstall the flooring.

When the team removed the vinyl plank flooring, they discovered all of the subfloor and floor joists had decayed to the point where they were no longer structurally sound. The team then removed all of the deteriorated flooring, repaired it with new material, then restored the bedroom floor. The team also weather proofed an exterior door, replacing the sweep and gaskets.

The homeowners were very appreciative of the work done on this flooring which was collapsing. “I thought the work couldn’t be done, it looked so bad. The volunteers worked so hard. I don’t have any words to tell my level of appreciation. I am so, so much touched.” This home was sponsored by St. Nicholas Lutheran Church and the HELP Association.

House # 35 This Christmas in April crew, from Huntingtown United Methodist Church with Mike Cox serving as house captain, made short work of improving the safety of a wheelchair ramp for a Calvert County senior citizen. The old plywood ramp was slippery and the railings were rickety. The volunteers first removed the plywood and railings from the existing ramp. They then added new deck boards to surface the ramp and completely restructured the railings so that they were structurally sound. The crew also strengthened a portion of wrought iron railing on her porch. The homeowner was quite pleased and she noted that several visitors had commented on how good the revamped ramp looked! She said, “It’s wonderful. Very solid! It is much safer and I don’t have to worry about slipping.” This home was sponsored by Pathway Wealth Management LLC.

House # 36 Matt Haynes led this dedicated team from Life Church. The team made major structural repairs to this senior homeowner’s bathroom floor, replacing subflooring, removing and reinstalling shower walls, and installing LVT flooring. Additionally, they installed a new vanity and faucet, a new medicine cabinet, and repainted the bathroom. Master Finish then came in and refinished the bathroom tub to complete the project.

The homeowner said, “I am ecstatic. The shower tiles were duct taped on and flex sealed by someone for me in the past and the walls were also damaged. It’s just so beautiful. I don’t even know how to say how thankful I am. I am going to cry. I didn’t think four guys could fit in that small bathroom. It is just so beautiful.” This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.



House # 37 Glenn Phelps, house captain from Cave to Castle Remodeling, led his volunteers to make improvements for this mother and daughter with disabilities. They replaced posts on the front porch to improve stability, installed elbows on the downspouts, caulked and sealed around the crawlspace door, and sealed the patio door frame. The homeowner said, “If I ever get my hands on any money, I will donate to Christmas in April because I really appreciate what they did. I really appreciate it.” This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 38 Cove Point LNG and Christmas in April took on a huge project to help a local family. The mother, a 79-year-old lady with severe respiratory issues, and her son, a 61-year-old disabled Army veteran, needed better access to their house. The goal was somewhat conflicting in that she needed a flat walkway at the base of her front steps, and he needed an ADA ramp from the porch to get out outside. Christmas in April and Cove Point LNG put their heads together and came up with a side-by-side solution to accommodate both needs.

On workday, Cove Point LNG mobilized a large crew to (among many other things) clear and cut their lawn, haul away trash and limbs and construct a 27-foot ramp. The ramp and yard turned out beautifully and the homeowners were overjoyed with the results. The homeowner expressed her appreciation by saying, "This has made a huge difference in our everyday life. I can push my walker up and down the ramp and my son can use it as he does his walking exercises. They did a magnificent job!"

Cove Point LNG donated all the materials and provided lunch for the volunteers. The Cove Point executive team paid a visit and served lunch to the crews. Christmas in April is grateful to have Cove Point LNG as such a strong corporate partner. Together, they made two people's lives much safer and more enjoyable by having easier access to their home. This home was sponsored by BHE GT&S (A Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company).



House # 39 This project was supported by volunteers from Cave to Castle Remodeling and the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors, with Glenn Phelps serving as house captain. The home was transformed in appearance by the painting of the exterior. The home was first power washed and yard work was also completed. The homeowner is thrilled with the new look and said, "I am really satisfied with the painting. I do appreciate everything. This home was sponsored by ACE Hardware.

House # 40 Knights of Columbus Council # 9258 and friends and family teamed together to restore the house entrance. The team of 10 volunteers spanning 3 generations worked safely through occasional light drizzle on Saturday and were treated to a beautiful and sunny Sunday to complete the project, transforming a water damaged front entry floor way and flimsy porch rails and broken floorboards and steps into a solid and safe entrance for the homeowner. The homeowner was overjoyed and thanked the team and the Christmas in April organization for providing a beautiful and safe entrance to her home, allowing her to say with joy, "Welcome to my home!" Thankfully, the rain didn't stop the volunteers and the work was performed safely. This home was sponsored by BHE GT&S (A Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company).

House # 41 A team from Calvert County Government, with house captain Tom Jones, returned to this home for

a second time. There was additional work that needed to be completed. Handrails were installed down the hill to the parking spaces below. Other tasks included painting the front porch, the hall bathroom, and the back deck, as well as addressing work on the porch screening, putting the hall bathroom fan and laundry room light into good working order, power washing the front of the house, and more. The homeowner said, “Everything is fantastic! I love my railing from the street to the house. It is a very big help. I did not realize how much I needed that. The team was so well organized. Thank you.” This home was sponsored by BHE GT&S (A Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company).

House # 42 Steve and Vada Brooks led this team from the Calvert Lighthouse Church. The team removed an existing bathtub unit and replaced it with a walk-in shower pan for a senior lady with mobility issues. The homeowner was very pleased, saying, “I love it! I love it! I got the bars and everything. I could not get into the tub. I just sat on the seat in the new shower and let the water run. These repairs were a change of life for me. Those guys did a heck of a job and helped me 100%.” This house was sponsored by the HELP Association and the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 43 A thirteen member team from Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, with Randy Kozik serving as house captain, worked on exterior repairs for this modest rambler and its large wrap-around deck. The owners are a 69-year-old couple, whose husband has limited mobility and a chronic illness restricting the repairs he can make to his home. The house, deck, and patio were power washed during the week prior to the scheduled April 27th workday, allowing the team to focus on the repairs for this large deck.

All thirteen members of this experienced team began working simultaneously at 7:30 a.m. on multiple deck repairs. Eighty feet of the damaged 5/4” board railing caps were replaced. The missing pickets were replaced, other pickets were reinforced as needed, and the railings firmly secured to their 4”x4” posts. The weather beaten and damaged deck boards were pried up and replaced; beneath the deck, the joists were reinforced or replaced; the two stairways leading to the deck were repaired and reinforced; and, finally, all the pickets and deck boards were stained. As the teams finished their deck repairs,

others began the other house repairs of replacing the unstable porch railing on the front concrete steps, painting the front porch and the trim around the front door and picture window, and removing the brick molding around the kitchen door and replacing it with new PVC moldings. By 1:30 p.m., most assignments were finished, the work areas cleaned, trash collected and hauled away, tools returned to their owners, and lumber and building materials organized for storage or returns. A full day’s work was completed to the satisfaction of the homeowner and the team of tired but happy volunteers! The homeowner commented, “All went well! Thank you.” This home was sponsored by the HELP Association.

House # 44 This elderly homeowner with limited mobility was finding it increasingly difficult to use the eight steps between her sidewalk and porch to enter and leave her house. An eight-member team from Christmas in April with volunteers from Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, St. Nicholas Lutheran Church, and the Christmas in April Board, came together this April morning to build a 24 foot ramp that allowed the homeowner to access her house and still keep the steps for her family and visitors to use. Randy Kozik was again house captain for this project. The team worked together with enthusiasm and efficiency to finish the ramp by noon. The homeowner, when stepping on it, simply said, “It is wonderful! This ramp helps out a lot as the steps were so steep for me.” Christmas in April was equally delighted to help her. This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.



House # 45 This home was improved by volunteers from Smithville United Methodist Church and Crownstone Home Improvement, with James Jackson serving as house captain. Three windows, including a bay window, were replaced in the living room and one in the bedroom. This involved removing the existing single pane metal framed windows and installing new ones. A steel casement window in the basement was also replaced. All the windows were trimmed out with new wood casing. The homeowner thanked Christmas in April by saying, “The work was excellent! The home is more airtight. They also installed a fire alarm and carbon monoxide detector. The volunteers were very excellent, pleasant, and nice to work with!” This home was sponsored by Smithville United Methodist Church and the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 46 Wow! You would not even know there was a house there!! Multiple trees had grown up against the house covering several windows. This was a huge safety concern for the homeowner. This team with volunteers from the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors, with Natalie Moore as house captain, removed all of the trees, cleaned the gutters, scrapped and painted the door frame, and replaced the seal on the front door which you could see through. Thank you so much Bin There Dump That for delivering a dumpster to the home!! The homeowner was so appreciative and made the most delicious cookies and brownies for the volunteers.

The homeowner was very complimentary of the volunteers. “Those people worked so hard. They didn’t fiddle around. They were working the whole time and only stopped to eat. I’ve never seen anything like that in real life. I wish, when I was younger and in good health, that I did something like that. This looks like a brand new home. It was just crazy.” This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust.

House # 47 Earlier this year, Christmas in April became aware of an elderly woman whose roof had active leaks so severe that she was using a combination of plastic sheets and a tub to deal with them. This roof was definitely in need of emergency repairs. Christmas in April contracted Handyman Construction LLC (HMC) – a local firm Christmas in April had worked with on previous projects – to do the work. Much to the delight of the homeowner, HMC quickly and professionally

replaced the roof on February eighth! This roof will keep her warm and dry for years to come. ”I really appreciate it,” said the homeowner. “The ceiling was about to collapse. This is one burden we no longer have to think about.” This home was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Trust.

House # 48 On 18 April 2024 Christmas in April completed a deck refurbish for a United States Air Force Veteran family. This home was worked on by volunteers from Constellation Energy Clean Energy Center, with Steve Vallandingham as house captain. This deck was used as a rest area for the family, and an area to grow plants and provide peace. The deck had fallen into disrepair and presented safety concerns for anyone using it. The stairs were unsupported and presented a possible collapse hazard. The railing, as well, was not capable of supporting any weight and presented a fall risk to the elderly residents.

The deck replacement consisted of removing all decking boards, railings and associated items. After inspection, it was determined that the structural supports were sufficient and new decking was installed. The railings were custom built with heavy duty lumber to provide a stable support and safety feature for any occupants. The stairs were reinforced with vertical supports that were cemented into the ground to ensure stability and safety in the future.

All decking, railings, supports, and stairs were either refurbished or rebuilt to ensure functionality and safety for the users of the deck.

Additionally, the gutter system on the uphill side of the home had developed a leak due to sagging support. This had led to water intrusion in the home and erosion outside the home along the foundation. New support was installed to correct the over-spill in the gutter system. Additionally, a drainpipe was installed on the affected side to direct the water away from the home's foundation and to a path that will allow proper flow without negative impacts. The homeowner was thrilled with the work. “They did a beautiful job. The volunteers even made the steps wider. I had to walk sideways on the steps but now I can walk flat-footed. I love Christmas in April. They did a beautiful job!” Appreciation for the success of this project also goes to Constellation Energy

Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center, Mission BBQ of California for providing a free lunch, Sneade's ACE Hardware, Patuxent Habitat for Humanity, and the Calvert County Department of Solid Waste. This home was sponsored by The HELP Association, Constellation Energy Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center, and Pathway Wealth Management LLC..

House # 49 On Saturday, June 1, 2024, six members from Harvest Fellowship Church in Lusby, guided by house captains Beth and Larry Carter, tore out dangerous, rotten stairs from the road to the walkway at this project house. The volunteers cleaned the area, then extended the existing planting beds to the retaining wall. The flower beds were filled and mulched, with Pampas grass added to camouflage where the stairs had been. A knee wall barricade was added at the top of the original stairs. The result is clean, neat, and safe. "The steps are so much safer and they fixed up the yard. Christmas in April is always, always, always better than expected. I am very grateful for you guys." This home was sponsored by the Harvest Fellowship Presbyterian Church.

Project # 60 In 2024 Christmas in April has assisted the HELP Association with some necessary repairs and maintenance to the Thrift Store. In the fall, additional insulation was added to the attic to help with energy costs for the upcoming winter. The security cameras

were serviced and adjustments made to capture clothing and dumpster drop offs. A team of Christmas in April volunteers helped move all of the Christmas donations stored in the basement to the upstairs store and outside awing area for the annual Sunday Christmas Sale. In the spring, the clothing shed's door hinge was repaired and the deteriorating wood was replaced with new wood and then painted.

Project # 62 A team of volunteers provided assistance to Patuxent Habitat for Humanity over a six day period. Four drywall repairs were completed. Smoke and CO detectors were installed. Interior and exterior painting took place and driveway repairs were made. The team also removed six dump trailer loads of vegetation from the lot of Habitat for Humanity's next build site. Volunteers from Constellation Energy Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center, and Patuxent Habitat for Humanity participated in this project.

Project # 63 Matt Haynes led this team of volunteers from Life Church's Men's Group to make improvements for the Calvert County Humane Society. The crew repaired about a 100' section of deck (dog walkway) which included the frame and deck boards. The teammates also installed about a 100' handrail along the walkway. Both of these tasks greatly improved the safety of the volunteer dog walkers. This project was sponsored by Sneade's ACE Hardware.



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

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Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Telephone: (410)535-9044
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Scan to donate

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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