

# BADGER STATE TURF CLIPPINGS

*Editors Note: The following is a story from Kerry Anderson from Valent USA on a service trip he took to Janesville, Virginia to help remodel a house. It*

## Appalachian Service Project

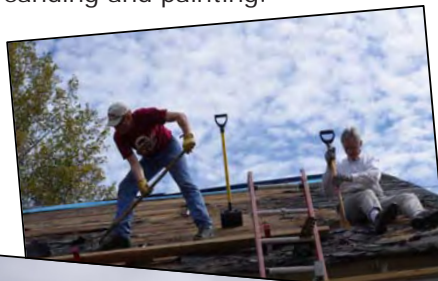
Submitted by Kerry Anderson

After returning from Jonesville, Virginia from the latest Appalachian Service Project (ASP), I started reviewing some of the pictures we took while helping a family in need make their house "warmer, safer, and drier". Our family, a grandmother of 80, along with her son and granddaughter lived in a home that in parts was more than 100 years old, and it was definitely showing its age. Prior to our arrival the house was close to being condemned. The roof was falling in and water was destroying the ceilings and floors. Floor joists were rotten from the many years of neglect and were collapsing beneath them.

We were the fourth group from ASP to be at this sight. Other groups had replaced one side of the roof that had been falling through, floor joists were repaired or replaced and rough flooring was installed. Drywall work had commenced and was ready for sanding and painting.



Kerry Anderson (back row, far left)



The items that we would be responsible for during the week of our service involved removing 2 layers of shingles on the back roof, patching bad spots and replacing the roof with tin. The kitchen floor needed to be finished, installing tile and baseboard. The front living area needed a laminate floor installed. The grandmother's bedroom needed the ceiling sanded and painted, closet doors installed and a shelf put up as well as trim installed. In addition, we needed to clear the back yard of 10+ foot tall Ragweed to access the roof for the tear off and installation of tin. We had a lot of work to finish in 5 days but I knew how hard our crew would work to achieve our goals and that gave me confidence.

Without fail, our groups worked quickly to accomplish our assigned tasks and were able to move on to other jobs that were only in future plans. Usually we have to leave our unfinished projects for future crew's completion. This gave us a great feeling of accomplishment this year since we had really lived up to the mission of making this home "Warmer, safer, and drier".

ASP is an extremely worthwhile organization that works in the Appalachian Mountains to help families in need. Of the 200+ families that apply to the Jonesville site alone, only around 12-15 homes can be worked on per year. ASP is currently expanding to bring more adult groups into their program. They have a strong youth program during the summer, but need more adults for the difficult tasks they are faced with. The website [www.asphome.org](http://www.asphome.org) is where you can find information about the opportunities to share of your time and talents. Any talent level can be utilized. There are plenty of tasks, from painting and cleaning to structural integrity issues, there are a multitude of opportunities for all skill sets. Can you give of your time and talents to help others that are less fortunate?

As a final Big **THANK-YOU**, the group especially praises the assistance from Valent's Matching Gift Program. This allowed our group to purchase materials to help in the restoration process and allowed a family to have a better life.