

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) News

January 2010

As we reported in December we will be providing updates to the various projects our teams worked on in the summer of 2009. Each month January through June we will review a 2009 project. If you missed a previous month you can catch up by going to our ASP2010 website at <http://www.charteroakstudents.org/ASP2010/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

This month we are reporting on the Abbott home; recent newlyweds, David and Joy, both suffer from unimaginable disabilities. David has muscular dystrophy and Joy has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Both of them are delightful and their personalities fill the room with happiness, you completely overlook any disability and notice how wonderful they are. The problems they suffer from are the handicap accessibility of their home. Their greatest need is fixing the wheelchair ramp in the front. During the rain and slippery weather, it is nearly impossible to safely exit the front porch off of the ramp. They asked for their kitchen sink to be handicap accessible, but they found that they didn't know how to explain their needs because they had never had someone offer them help in such a gracious manner.

In week one Charter Oak Church began the summer projects by adding a handicap ramp off the left side of the house. The foundations were laid and the first part of the decking was installed. During the balance of the summer crews from Cincinnati OH, Franklin PA, Columbia MD, Wilmington DE, Duxbury MA, Westborough MA and Evanston IL; completed the ramp, added a set of stairs, leveled the bathroom sub-floor and placed new linoleum, replaced the kitchen sub-floor and linoleum, made the shower handicap accessible, made the kitchen sink & cabinets handicap accessible, repaired drywall, re-hung the bathroom door, painted the bathroom & kitchen, laid carpet in the dining room and living room, insulated underneath the house and installed new under pinning, new gutters and added new thresholds throughout the home.

Various works crews spent the entire eight weeks of summer project time working for this couple. The family was so enduring, understanding, appreciative and loving. They can now live in a life of comfort; they are able to every day tasks like wash the dishes, bathe and move about the home with ease.

Well done my true and faithful servant.