

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) News

March 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 Dingess' home; at an outside glance, the home of Alfred and Arizona Dingess seems perfect and quaint. When the ASP staff met the couple, they found out that Alfred was 102 and Arizona was 90 and they care for their 46 y/o daughter who suffers from a physical disability that impairs her mobility. Arizona quoted, "*I will stay by her side for the rest of my life.*" Walking up the ramp was difficult for all of the staffers present because the incline was so steep. Most of the time they cannot take their daughter out because the ramp is so dangerous.

Week 1 Charter Oak Church began the first leg of the 29 foot handicap ramp. The crew was often deterred by rain, in-fact 3 out of the 5 days they where there, it rained. The crew did successfully finish the first 5x8 landing and then the first run of the ramp. Posts were set, concrete poured, runners installed as well as the decking added all the way to the second landing. Despite the rain the crew worked diligently and stayed at the worksite an extra hour and half on Friday to end at a good stopping point for the following week's crew.

Week 2 brought Anderson Hills UMC, as they continued work on the ramp. The group completed all decking and began installing the bottom bumpers. The group spent a lot of time with the family this week and formed strong bonds as a result. Trinity UMC of Frederick, MD finished the work in week 3 installing the upper and lower bumpers as well as the spindles for the entire length of the ramp. They also ran into the septic system so they installed the bottom landing concrete pad in a unique way to create a place for the ramp to extend all the way to the driveway.

After all the hard work by three crews, this family can now safely enter and exit their home. Arizona's main delight is that they can now take their daughter to church again.