



AUGUST 2025

COCKE COUNTY, TN RECOVERY NEWSLETTER

We are 10 months past Helene and entering our 4th month of the LTRG fully operating in Cocke County to make sure no one gets left behind or forgotten in the aftermath of a historic disaster. Each week comes with new challenges, but each week also comes with progress in our mission to rebuild homes and lives – along with joyful stories of people of all walks of life working together for a common goal. It is truly humbling to see what can be accomplished with grace, a heart of service, and the right tools for the job.

Spring Duckett, Executive Director of Cocke County Long-Term Recovery Group

LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUP NEWS

The onset of August means that families have children returning to school and mission trips are winding down. However, the amount of work that has been completed this summer by loving hearts and willing hands is astonishing.

Over the course of the summer, Experience Mission has provided a total of 135 mission volunteers from 10 churches in 8 different states for projects identified by the LTRG. This has totaled 2,535 in-kind labor hours since June 16th completing 24 repair and debris removal tasks at 13 survivor locations.

Appalachian Service Project has also been working on repair projects all summer here in our beautiful Cocke County. They have brought in 360 volunteers and worked on 24 different projects at 8 different survivor homes. Our best guess at the in-kind labor for these tasks is a minimum of 7500 hours. Special thanks to Sunset Gap for hosting them during July!

There was a groundbreaking ceremony in Hartford in July as Appalachian Service Project is gearing up to build new homes for survivors. They currently have 9 rebuild projects either already started or poised to start and will continue to work in coordination with the LTRG to identify additional survivors who fit their program.

Tennessee's Community Assistance Corporation is working with 7 survivors on complete rebuild projects as well. The process for a TCAC home includes working with clients to ensure that the homes meet the needs of the survivors and that the quality of the work meets standards of integrity in a way to ensure that each of these can be considered a legacy home ~ a true Appalachian value to encourage the generational passing of homes!

Clinch Powell is a dedicated partner at the table for our home repair projects. They have been continuously working on disaster projects throughout the county and currently they are working on 9 different major repairs for survivors.

Current Needs

Here are some of the top needs in our communities:

- Warehouse Space
- Lawncare Equipment
- Financial Donations
- Specialized Volunteers

Needs Met

Here are some of the needs met this summer:

- 30+ locations with projects
- 10,000+ volunteer hours
- 48+ volunteer projects completed
- 15-18% recovery complete

How to Donate?

Visit unitedwayetnh.org/ltrg/cocke/



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