



COCKE COUNTY, TN RECOVERY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

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find us on FB

It's been just over a year since Tropical Storm Helene changed lives across Cocke County — and thanks to the incredible support, collaboration, and resilience of this community, we are making powerful progress together. Since fully launching in April 2025, the Cocke County Long-Term Recovery Group (CCLTRG) has become the backbone of coordinated recovery work, connecting survivors with resources, volunteers, and hope. **Spring Duckett, Executive Director**

LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUP NEWS

In the last six months, we've opened 173 disaster recovery cases representing more than 400 people, with 2-4 new cases added each week from survivors that still need help. Together with more than 60 partner organizations, we've completed 100+ repair projects on about 50 homes and begun 20+ full rebuilds. Seventeen households have already returned to permanent housing, and dozens more are on the way as construction continues.

Volunteer support remains a driving force with over 10,000 hours of service already contributed (valued at more than \$600,000).

Building materials, contracted services, and other resources purchased for recovery efforts by the LTRG and partners are adding significantly to the economy in our county as well with a focus on local purchasing and hiring. We are proud supporters of small, locally owned, quality businesses.

Roots and Reins, our community event held on the one-year mark of Helene, was an incredible success thanks to the efforts of the LTRG coordinating with local, regional, and national partners. We had well over 1,000 attendees - along with every first responder crew in Cocke County - come together and represent the Appalachian values of faith, family, community, and culture that are thriving in our corner of East Tennessee.

There's still lots of work ahead — we estimate recovery will continue for the next 2-4 years — but together we've built a stronger, more connected, and more resilient Cocke County. Thank you for being part of this ongoing journey toward renewal.

We hope that you will join with us in these continuing efforts to rebuild homes and lives in the wake of Helene. We still need volunteers and financial donations to go the distance in these labors of love.

Current Needs

Here are some of the top needs in our communities:

- Warehouse Space
- Financial Donations
- Storage Sheds
- Lawncare Equipment

Needs Met

Here are some of the needs recently met:

- 1300+ volunteer hours in September 2025
- 17 households returned to permanent housing
- God's Warehouse providing significant building materials

How to Donate?

Visit unitedwayetnh.org/ltrg/cocke/

