

Building a better world through Christian Workcamp

In its 34th year, BCCW's succinct mission is home repair and assistance for the needy by volunteers of all ages for those within Baltimore County. BCCW is run by volunteer lay people and is completely ecumenical with members of all faiths involved. BCCW is a 501(c)3 organization and a County RSVP Program.

Each year, typically 50-60 houses are repaired throughout the County. These sites are typically referred by various County offices or departments, churches, and other groups.

BCCW is structured like a work camp, where many volunteers travel far from home to attend for a week or more. However, with the work sites located in the County, BCCW is more of a "commuter's work camp" where volunteers only need to commit to work for one day and can sleep in their own bed at night, plus it is much less expensive to participate.

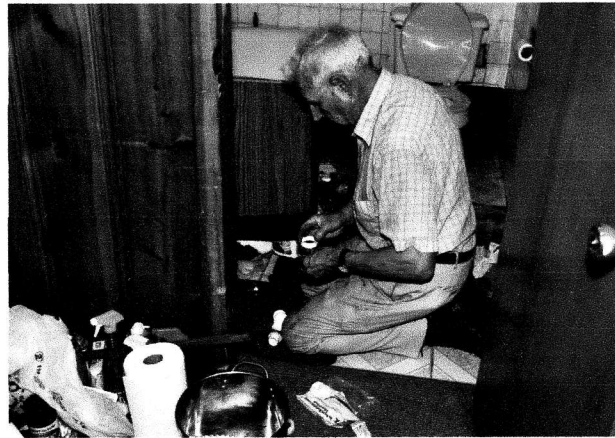
Work could include plumbing, electrical, carpentry, ceilings, walls, roofs, porches, steps, insulation, ac units, gas stoves, general clean-up, interior and exterior painting, caulking, yard work, and ramps of varying lengths. Volunteers are free to choose the site location and type of work which they wish to do, based on their experience, skills or abilities, or what they want to do. Church groups will typically pre-select sites to work on; individuals can choose any site without sufficient volunteers or offer to augment a church crew.

This year's BCCW is from Sunday July 16 through Friday July

21, 2017. On Sunday, there is a kick-off dinner and orientation video at the host church, west of Towson. Each week day starts with an optional breakfast where bagged lunches can be prepared. Volunteers then go out to sites and do what they can. From Monday-Friday, there are optional dinners; the day's activities are also discussed. Friday has a concluding wrap-up meeting.

Last year during the week in July, 33 houses were worked on, which included the construction of nine ramps. BCCW's longest and most expensive ramp system (164') was built in 2016; it included a ramp from the back door, wrapped around the back of the house and one side, culminating in a more typical 40' ramp to the driveway. This enabled the resident to get out of her house so she can get to her doctor appointments. In 2014, two ramps (61' and 14') were built at a site where paramedics were not able to even take the residents out on a stretcher. The husband had not been out of the house on his own for over eight years; after the ramp, he had a new found "freedom" via his wheelchair to get outside and get his mail and newspaper, and take out the trash on a daily basis. Last October, a 94' ramp system was built to allow a woman to safely traverse uneven ground in a motorized wheelchair to get to the bus stop.

Each year approximately 200 people participate during the week in various capacities, with an estimated 400-450 days of work performed at the sites. Last year



Volunteer Rodney Gist, at 87, is the oldest volunteer with BCCW

the youngest work camper was 6; the oldest, 86!

Here's what the volunteers have to say:

"Other than my wife and family, my thirty plus years with BCCW has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."--Jim Miller (90, "retired" BCCW volunteer, former BCCW co-chair)

"I like to keep busy, especially doing jobs; they are rewarding to do for those who are in need."--Rodney Gist (87, presently BCCW's oldest volunteer)

"Good opportunity to help people who are unable to help themselves. It is amazing that people who help get more out of it. Just being a presence at a site is often as beneficial to the client as actually helping do

something."--Chip Day (75, chair or co-chair since 1987)

"When I first began volunteering, I was surprised to find that there is much mission work to be done right here in our own back yard. There are large numbers of families and individuals who can benefit from the help of others in keeping their homes safe and healthy, allowing them to stay in them longer."--Frank Thomas (66, co-chair since 2002)

For more information on how to be a part of this uplifting experience contact the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at 410-887-3101 or avogrin@baltimorecountymd.gov. Or check out the BCCW website at www.bcchristianworkcamp.org.

RSVP partners to be celebrated in 2017

RSVP of Baltimore County is a current partner of nearly 40 non-profit organizations, public agencies, and proprietary health care organizations across the county. These organizations address a variety of community needs and serve various populations. If you are interested in learning more about the volunteer needs of any of the agencies listed below, please contact the RSVP Office, 410-887-3101 or volunteers@baltimorecountymd.gov.

AARP Tax Aide Program
Alzheimer's Association
American Red Cross
Augsburg Village
Baltimore County Association of Senior Citizen Organizations (BCASCO)
Baltimore County Christian Work Camp
Baltimore County Department of Aging Home Team
Baltimore County Department of Aging Ombudsman
Baltimore County Detention Center
Baltimore County Public Schools
Baltimore County Senior Centers
CASA of Baltimore County
Churches for Streets of Hope
Community Assistance Network
Dundalk Youth Services Center
Eastern Interfaith Outreach
Friends of Great Kids Farm
Gilchrist Hospice

Glenn L. Martin Aviation Museum
Greater Baltimore Medical Center
Green Spring Tennis and Educational Foundation
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
Healthscope
Hereford Food Pantry
Irvine Nature Center
Maryland Agricultural Research Council
Maryland Food Bank
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Patapsco Heritage Greenway
Pathways Tutoring
Pets On Wheels
Pro Bono Counseling Project
Progress Unlimited
Project Linus
St. Andrews Lutheran Church
St. Vincent de Paul (Balto)
Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)
Senior Box Office
Senior Craft Gallery

Their Future Depends On Us

You are invited to participate in life-changing experiences – for you and the youth you help as a volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunities at The Children's Home

205 Bloomsbury Avenue
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

The possibilities are limitless as are the rewards.

Seeking enthusiast volunteers to assist in the following areas:

- Gardening
- Landscaping
- Carpentry
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Culinary Arts
- Clerical
- Career Development



For more information, visit our website at:
www.thechildrenshome.net

MISSION

The Children's Home provides residential and community to promote long-term well-being and success to young people and families who experience a disruption in their lives.

VISION

To be the premier provider of comprehensive child, youth and family services.