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Christian Appalachian Project Overview

Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) is a nonprofit, interdenominational organization in Appalachia, committed to serving people in need through self-help human service programs. Started in 1964 by Rev. Ralph W. Beiting, a young northern Kentucky priest, our work has been focused on promoting dignity and independence among the residents of this poverty-stricken region.

We work primarily with children and their families, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, providing the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter. CAP's long-time presence in the area has earned the trust of Appalachian communities and because of our extensive infrastructure, we are equipped to provide sustainable impact on a wider scale than many other local agencies. Because of the incredibly diverse needs of the people in the region, CAP offers an equally diverse variety of targeted programs and services.

We invest in our children and youth through leadership development training, summer camp and meal programs, and in-school mentoring. Family counseling and advocacy programs ensure that no family would be disadvantaged or denied basic needs because of their circumstances. Through an extensive housing program, CAP is able to improve the standards of homes in 11 different Appalachian counties. Without our help, these homes would otherwise be uninhabitable or unsafe.

We are constantly evolving and growing in our relationship with the people and communities we serve, strategically developing and implementing programming to meet the greatest need. Our focus is to sustain our current services while envisioning new and innovative ways to meet the long-term goals of our mission. Today, CAP leverages the power and enthusiasm of roughly 140 staff and 1,200 annual volunteers, plus financial supporters from across the nation. CAP's 16 direct service programs directly impact the lives of over 15,000 people annually. These programs include housing repair, food and clothing banks, early childhood education, after-school programs, emergency assistance, family counseling, summer camps, elderly services, disaster relief, and in-home respite services for families of individuals with disabilities.

Operation Sharing, one of our largest programs, collects and distributes as much as \$60 million in goods annually to another 1.5 million people in need throughout the 13 Appalachian states, as well as to people in need in Missouri and Arkansas. This is done through a network of more than 1,200 partner agencies and churches that redistribute these essential items, including food and beverages, office and cleaning supplies, furniture, paper goods, and building materials.

CAP also facilitates an alternative spring break opportunity for college and high school students each year, known as Workfest. Students are sent out to the areas of greatest poverty in the region to rebuild participants' homes and offer them hope for a better future.

For more than 50 years, CAP has been building hope, transforming lives, and sharing Christ's love through service in Appalachia. With the help of donors, volunteers, staff, and the communities it serves, CAP will continue to restore hope for thousands of children, families, and seniors in Central Appalachia.