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Summer Missions at Hinton: Be Part of the Story!

By Rev. Dawn Martin, Director of Program Ministries

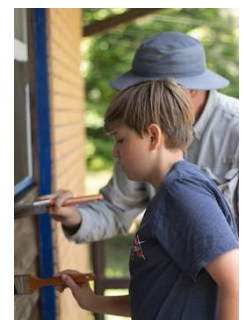
The work Hinton Rural Life Center does through our **Safe & Healthy Housing ministry** is much more than home repairs. Repairs are needed and important. Fostering relationships as we share our stories and get to know one another is even more important, and one of the amazing outcomes of Hinton's ministry is seeing how our stories intertwine.

Sitting down with Doyce, one of our homeowners, we learned so much about his life and his connection to Hinton. A Korean War veteran, Doyce has had many roles in our Appalachian community. Married with four children, he is now the caregiver for his wife and adult child. Doyce has always been one to give to others, and Hinton's volunteers were happy to be able to give to Doyce and his family. Projects they completed at his home this summer included an accessibility ramp, handrails, and working with Doyce in his garden. Not only did the repairs help with accessibility and safety, but time spent with volunteers provided encouragement to Doyce and his family. (View a short video featuring Doyce at https://youtu.be/LinAOQW_5dw.)



Hinton staff and volunteers know that poverty has many dimensions. It's more than just about the finances. There is **physical poverty**, such as getting older and not being as mobile, or having an injury that limits what you can do. **Spiritual poverty** could be not having belief in the support of a higher power, not having a faith community, distrust in the goodness or opportunities around us, or lack of hope in the world. **Emotional poverty** includes low levels of resiliency, inability to handle stress, or struggling with mental health or wellbeing. **Mental/cognitive poverty** can be a lack of educational resources, lack of quality schools, learning difficulties, or undiagnosed/untreated mental health challenges. And, there's **social poverty**, as some homeowners are lonely or isolated. Having a group come and help with yardwork or needed repairs and offering conversation and connection can make a huge difference in their lives.

Because **your zip code can be a better indicator of your health than genetics**, Hinton seeks a better quality of life for everyone in our community. Towards that goal, we strive to cultivate and enhance connections in our community, including local volunteers, mission teams, churches, businesses, and civic organizations. Working together and improving one home at a time can ultimately affect the entire community! And, it's not only our community that benefits. We hear story after story from youth and adult volunteers who were personally impacted by their week at Hinton: "I learned lots of stuff about construction, and I saw God in the work we did for our homeowner"; "I experienced God in the storytelling."



Using the Summer 2024 theme of Treasured, our Wednesday chapel time features a "story exchange," in which participants swap stories with a partner about something they treasure, then share each other's story in the first-person, building empathy and connection. **We pray that Hinton volunteers and donors find a piece of their story interwoven with Hinton's story and that, together, we continue to tell God's story of love, renewal, and hope!**

BE PART OF THE STORY – MAKE YOUR DONATION TO HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER TODAY.
www.HintonCenter.org/donate. Check, credit card, and online giving options available.