# WoodsWork Mission Trip

for High School Aged Youth

# Habitat For Humanity Blitz Build

## Explanation of WoodsWork

- WoodsWork is a self sustained youth led and planned mission trip that strives to serve God and the community through blitz building houses that will become homes, building relationships, and building faith as disciples of Christ.
- WoodsWork also takes on community projects other than house construction as required due to age limitations or physical limitations.
- Each summer WoodsWork travels to a different place to work with a Habitat affiliate.
- When off the worksite, the youth engage in programs and small groups planned by the youth-led WoodsWork planning committee.
- WoodsWork may provide the hosting Habitat Chapter with a donation to defray material and property costs.

## Explanation of WoodsWork

#### The trip lasts a total of 9 days.

Day				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday				
Monday				
Tuesday				
Nednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				

Dav

### AM Activity Travel Day Work Day 1 Work Day 2 Worship Work Day 3 Work Day 4 Day Off / Recreation Work Day 5 / Worship at the Site Travel Day

#### **PM Activity**

Program / Small Group Program / Small Group Program / Small Group Program / Small Group Laundry Night Program / Small Group Program / Small Group Talent Show Travel Day



## WoodsWork is Unique



- Youth do the majority of the planning and actual construction work for the trip.
- There is a loving atmosphere found in all aspects of the trip.
- There is an emphasis on building faith through nightly programs and small groups, expanding the trip's goal beyond mission.
- The trip leaves a lasting effect on the youth; both in creating friendships and in creating or building upon existing faiths.
- The rate at which 80 120 focused high school students with adult supervision can construct houses is remarkable.
- The trip has a positive effect on the community that we visit, both in homes and inspiration.













### WoodsWork Mission Statement

WoodsWork, a self sustained youth led and planned mission trip that strives to serve God and the community through building homes, relationships, and faith as disciples of Christ.







### Goals

#### WoodsWork youth plan to:

- Have meaningful spiritual programs
- Build homes as a mission
- o Fundraise to pay for the trip

#### In order to:

- o Grow in their faith journey
- o Gain a sense of achievement
- o Meet new people
- o Impact lives
- o Learn to live together



## Transportation

WoodsWork provides its own transportation.

WoodsWork travels in charter buses to and from the Habitat affiliate.





#### WoodsWork travels in 15 passenger vans to all other locations.



# Our Housing Needs

#### church or school:

- Large gym or recreation room where our group will sleep.
- Large gym, sanctuary, or recreation room where our group will conduct program.
- Large cafeteria or fellowship hall where our group will conduct meals.

- o Large scale cooking facility with refrigeration and freezer storage
- o Showers (6-8 per gender).
- o Bathrooms.

## We Take Care of Ourselves

We provide our own meals, cooking staff, and supplies.



We clean up after ourselves, at home base, and at the work site.



## Safety Requirements

- All youth and advisors receive safety instruction and construction training prior to trip.
- Helmets and eye protection provided and required.
- We have access to medical care; nurse or doctor (health-care professional) is on the trip.
- Must be 18+ in order to operate power tools.
- No youth under the age of 16 is permitted on an active worksite.
- o Any/all medications are only administered by the trip nurse.



### Habitat Responsibilities

#### **Construction:**

- Two to three homes to construct.
- Other community rehab projects.
- All building materials.
- School or church to stay.

#### **Faith Development:**

- Future owners selected before arrival.
- Future owners participating with the youth while building their homes
- Future owners participating in other events with the youth such as meals and program





### Size of our Group (Youth and Adult Advisors)

- 80 120 youth
  - (graduated 8<sup>th</sup> grade through graduated 12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 40 60 adult advisors

# **Required Pre-trip Events**

### Orientation 1:

- Introduction to the WoodsWork Committee. Overview of the trips mission and objectives. Review trip theme, dates, destination, and methods of transportation.
- Review schedule for each day/workday including what our construction objectives are.
- Review the structure and roles of Work Groups and Small Groups.
- o Introduction to the Habitat Chapter Leadership Team and our points of contact at home base.
- Overview of home base living accommodations including sleeping areas, showers, gym, cafeteria, and program space.
- Peer to peer Q/A with Woodswork Youth Committee. Parent Q/A. Q/A with the trip's Nurse.

### Orientation 2:

- Review fundraising requirements, the trips daily schedule, home base workgroup assignments, activities with your small groups, requirements for carwash, commissioning Sunday, and Pack the Truck.
- o Review departure Instructions, Packing List, Liability Forms, and Medical Forms.
- We have three 30-minute stations with specific orientations regarding: wall construction, tools and attire for the worksite, and safety.
- o Introduction to Small Groups.
- Review the WoodsWork Covenant. Discuss rules and expectations.
- Q/A with the trip's Nurse.

### Car Wash

- Fundraise money for the trip.
- o Introduction to Work Groups.
- Safety Training and Tool Time (practice) for first time WoodsWorkers.
- Child Protection Policy Training for all adult volunteers.

### Pack the Truck

- o Departure instructions.
- Trip's Nurse reviews medications with parents (individually) possession of medications are transferred.

## **Our Organization Structure**

### **Advisor Skill Levels**

"Advisors" on the trip come from all different professions including teachers, nurses, doctors, engineers, psychiatrists, lawyers, architects, accountants, etc. All advisors undergo a background check and formal Child Protection Policy Training.

### WoodsWork Committee

• Team of leaders responsible for planning and leading WoodsWork.

### Site Lead

 Professional architects and experienced builders responsible for materials, schedules, documents, and Work Group assignments. These individuals work with the Habitat Chapter in advance to review construction documents and create panel diagrams.

### House Captains

• Each house has a professional builder and a group off assistant captains that oversee the construction or rehab of the house or project. All have proven leadership and construction capabilities.

### Advisors

• The Advisors are hand-picked, assigned adults who have shown an eagerness to work on site and serve as guides for the youth work groups. Some of the advisors have construction knowledge. All advisors focus on safety.

### Work Group Leaders

The Work Group Leaders are youth who have been on past WoodsWork trips and have experience on the worksite, have demonstrated leadership qualities, and a positive work ethic.

#### Nurse

• Dedicated individual focusing on hydration, sunscreen application, administering all medications, and administering first aid (cuts, scratches, bruises), as necessary.



Joe Marsala Home Base & Head Cook

Josh Stolarczyk Head Photographer

Marianne Kulesa Home Base & **Kitchen Support** 

Sarah Kent Faith Building & **Kitchen Support** 

Sarah Thompson Home Base & **Kitchen Support** 

Tara Dell **Registered Nurse** 

Construction & Scheduling Support

**Tom Wilke** 

Vic Marone WoodsWork Chair Emeritus



#### WoodsWork Construction Leads

Skilled builders responsible for providing direction and leadership on all mission projects. These leaders are familiar with the WoodsWork organization and are responsible for the productivity and safety of all youth and adults on the worksite.



John Narer

- Site Lead / House Captain
- Project Manager
- MD State Highway Admin-
- istration
- Professional Civil Engineer - 37 WoodsWorks



**Tim Hutcheson** 

- Site Lead / House Captain
- Project Manager
- Commercial Construction
- Professional Architect
- 24 WoodsWorks



**Doug Haley** 

- Site Lead / House Captain - Retired Construction Man-
- ager - Retired Business Owner
- 13 WoodsWorks



Scott Wiley

- Site Lead
- Engineering Director
- Electrical Engineer



Tom Wilke

- Site Lead
- WoodsWork Team Lead
- 19 WoodsWorks



- Assistant House Captain

- Finance / Accounting
- 16 WoodsWorks





- School Principal
- Skilled carpenter
  - "jig" guru
- -7 WoodsWorks



110 60

WOODS

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

**Ed Lambert** 

- Assistant House Captain
- Retired Engineering Manager
- Retired Electrical Engineer -14 WoodsWorks



#### Alan Becknell

- Assistant Site Lead
- Retired Project Manager
- Retired Chemist
- 16 WoodsWorks



#### Andrew Wiley

- Material Transportation
- Project Manager - Professional Mechanical
- Engineer - 13 WoodsWorks



**Don Ziegler** 

#### - Advisor - Retired Business Owner

- Retired High School Teach-
- er & Coach - Licensed Realtor
- House Flipper
- 5 WoodsWorks



#### Lin Hayman

- County Inspector - Retired custom residential mason contractor. 30+ years.
- Retired Business Owner
- 3 WoodsWorks

- Advisor



#### **Harold Gontz**

- Advisor
- Lead Analyst
- -Retired Army Engineer
- House Flipper
- 2 WoodsWorks



Josh Stolarcyzk

- Research & Development

- Software Developer

- Electrical Engineer

- 8 WoodsWorks

- Advisor

Engineer



#### **Trevor Bortz**

- Advisor
- Project Manager
- Commercial Roofing
- High School Teacher
- 3 WoodsWorks

- Retired Project Manager - Certified Professional Estimator

## **Our Organization Structure**

#### Work Groups:

Ainsleigh

Junior

- The youth are divided into work groups of 4-5. In total there are roughly 20 Work Groups. They remain a team for all 9 days. 0
- Each Work Group is assigned a Work Group Leader a junior or senior who has been on past WoodsWork trips and has 0 experience on the worksite, has demonstrated leadership qualities, and a positive work ethic.
- Each Work Group will have a different adult advisor assigned to them on a daily basis. 0
- Work Groups receive their work duties in the morning and are responsible for that task throughout the workday. 0

#### Hank Carson Work Group Leader Work Group Member Senior Senior 4<sup>th</sup> Year On The Trip 3rd Year On The Trip Work Group Member 3rd Year On The Trip "Work Group G" Day 1 Assignment: Wall Construction Advisor: Vic Marone Kate Vic Marone Work Group Member

#### Work Group Example:

- Sophomore
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year On The Trip

- Work Group Advisor
- 15<sup>th</sup> Year On The Trip

## **Our Organization Structure**

### **Small Groups:**

- The youth are divided into groups of 8-10. In total there are roughly 12 Small Groups. They remain a group for all 9 days. 0
- Each Small Group is assigned a Small Group Leader a junior or senior who has been on past WoodsWork trips and is 0 comfortable and capable of leading faith-based discussions.
- Each Small Group will have the same 2-3 adult advisors who will remain with them for the entirety of the trip. 0
- Small Groups meet after program to discuss topics highlighted during evening program. They also will attend church 0 together on Sunday morning and will travel and have dinner together as a group on laundry night.

### **Small Group Example:** Andrew Wilev Kathy Dea Small Group Advisor Small Group Advisor • 13th Year On The Trip 1<sup>st</sup> Year On The Trip Rhonda Greubel Luke Small Group Advisor Small Group Leader 18<sup>th</sup> Year On The Trip Senior 4<sup>th</sup> Year On The Trip

#### "Small Group 8" Night 5: After Program Small Group Advisors: Rhonda, Andrew, Kathy

#### Small Group Members:

- Luke (leader)
- Reed
- Jimmy
- Carter
- Hannah
- Emily
- Ty
- Jenna

# **Typical Project**

### presented here <u>assuming</u> we were to be building 2 or 3 houses

But this can vary depending on the Local Habitat needs and the Liability rules.

### **Decking Construction**

Decking on all houses is typically completed by the end of Work Day 1.











### Wall Assembly

"Walls" are constructed as panels separate from the house, not yet raised. Roughly 60-80 panels are constructed daily. Typical houses range between 40 and 60 panels.



### Exterior Wall Raising



Exterior Walls are sheathed and raised.









### Interior Wall Raising

The remaining "walls" are constructed, transported, and installed.



### Roof Construction Begins

Top plate installed and roof trusses are raised. Roof sheathing begins.











### Weather Proofing

Sheathing, roof paper, house wrap, windows, doors, shingles













## Work Progression: Day 4 & 5 **Brush With Kindness**



Youth under the age of 16 participate in other community rehabilitation projects and offsite construction projects.





Siding, shingling, rough electrical, placement of doors, windows, showers, etc.



## Worship at the Site – Day 5











# WoodsWork 1985-2024

We specialize in constructing homes.

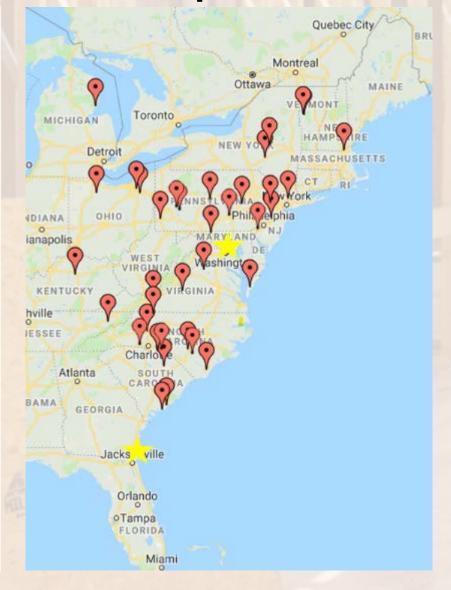
#### 78 new homes constructed since the trip began in 1985.

- To accommodate youth not permissible on active construction sites, we also partake in additional "Brush With Kindness" construction related tasks including but not limited to:
  - Picnic Tables
  - Sheds
  - Flower Boxes
  - Decks/Porches/Ramps
  - Fencing
  - Adirondack Chairs
  - Signs
  - Murals
  - Painting
  - Sidewalks



# WoodsWork Footprint

#	Year	# Youth	Location
1	1985	13	Rosie, NY
2	1986	33	New Castle, PA
3	1987	39	Yonkers, NY
4	1988	58	Ashland, KY
5	1989	59	Radford, VA
6	1990	69	Charleston, SC
7	1991	63	Baldwin, MI
8	1992	85	Middlebury, VT
9	1993	94	Trenton, NJ
10	1994	85	Lynchburg, VA
11	1995	80	Sea Island, SC
12	1996	89	Lawrence, MA
13	1997	102	Wilmington, NC
14	1998	85	Middlebury, VT
15	1999	74	Belle Haven, VA
16	2000	92	Bellefont, PA
17	2001	96	Greenville, TN
18	2002	105	Oneonta, NY
19	2003	107	Fayetteville, NC
20	2004	123	Orange, VA
21	2005	120	Fostoria, OH
22	2006	122	Washington, PA
23	2007	126	Statesville, NC
24	2008	135	Ravenna, OH
25	2009	140	Mt Airy, NC
26	2010	120	Hartsville, SC
27	2011	120	Twinsburg, OH
28	2012	131	Marshville, NC
29	2013	71	Hartsville, SC
30	2014	69	Morris County, NJ
31	2015	84	Hagerstown, MD
32	2016	97	Marshville, NC
33	2017	107	Kittanning, PA
34	2018	120	Harrisburg, PA
35	2019	127	Penns Grove, NJ
-	2020	-	CANCELLED (COVID 19)
36	2021	39	Forest City (Shelby), NC
37	2022	35	Kittanning, PA
38	2023	54	Hartsville, SC
39	2024	80	Roanoke, VA



## **Points of Contact**

#### WoodsWork Team Leader



Scott Wiley 410-353-1491 wilecoy2us@gmail.com

Scott joined Woods Church in 1985. He is an Ordained Elder at Woods and has been a part of the Missions Ministry for over 30 years. He continues to be active in mission at Woods, especially Youth Mission, because he believes it is an important part of our faith journey. Scott is an electrical engineer by trade and presently works at HII as a Director of Engineering. He is responsible for over 200 staff working in the field of Radio Frequency, Electromagnetic, and Spectrum Management, a major part of Wireless Communication in today's world.

Scott has attended WoodsWork 19 times and has been active on the WoodsWork planning committee since 2013 Woods Church Youth Director



Oliver Page opage@woodschurch.org

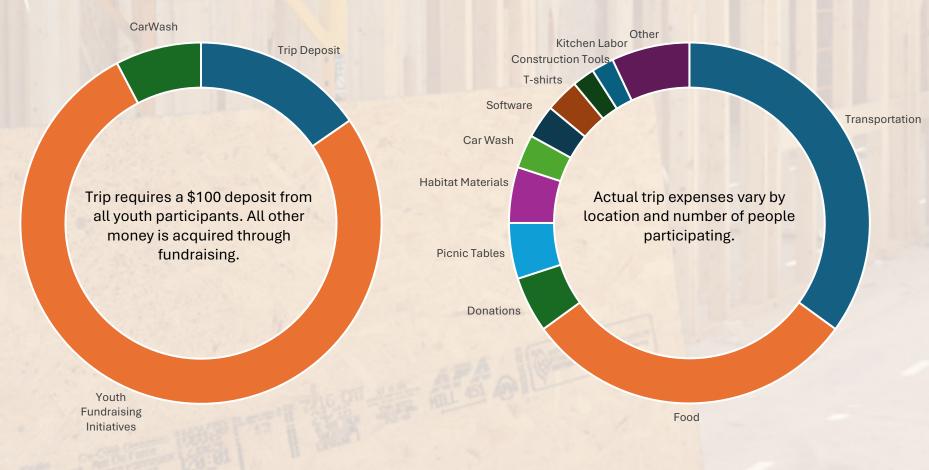
Oliver is a youth worker armed with tools he learned from more than nine years of service working at camps, volunteering with organizations like Young Life and Amor Ministries, and working as a Youth Director within the Presbyterian Church. He has brought his vigor for youth ministry to Arizona, Texas, California, and now Maryland. He has a passion for working with young people and is full of ideas to enrich and grow this community. Oliver is a passionate musician, loving brother and friend, and proud "nerd." He is beyond excited to consistently and diligently show God's love to the young people in such a special community.

Oliver has helped lead many similar trips in the past but he is new at Woods as of July 2023. Summer 2024 was Oliver's first experience on WoodsWork and he is excited for the opportunity to further refine it's spiritual based programs.

# **Trip Financials**

### Fundraising

### Expenses



# Habitat Affiliate Testimonies

- During the initial planning we did not realize what an amazing experience this was going to be for us, until we were actually there onsite working with the group," said Stephanie Buonarota, Director of Volunteer Services for Morris Habitat. Morris went on to add that, "There is a loving atmosphere found in all aspects of the visit." – New Jersey Advance Media
- Jerry Friant, a regular habitat volunteer, expressed that, "they were a delightful group of teens who were committed to getting work done." He added that commendations should go to the leaders, who did a great job checking all the work for accuracy. – New Jersey Advance Media"
- The group is dedicated to demonstrating faith through service, and I am so honored and thrilled that they chose a neighborhood in Harrisburg," said Lenker, Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Housing Financing Agency (PHFA). – Tri-County HDC, LTD.



## **Homeowner Testimonies**

Jasmine Smith, future homeowner in Morris New Jersey, said, "I have never met that many people who share the same love in their hearts for their neighbor. My daughter and I will love and remember each and every teenager and adults' smiling faces. I thank Habitat for Humanity for this opportunity, all its volunteers, and especially WoodsWork Summer Mission Trip 2014, as well as all their supporters, church sponsors and family back home that made the trip possible."



## **Youth Testimonies**

- WoodsWork has created memories that will remain in my heart forever. Once you get your first taste, it becomes a part of you. Nothing compares to the spiritual growth and love you experience on this trip."
- On my first WoodsWork, I was immediately struck by the power of we, the youth, to unite for a purpose greater than ourselves. This feeling of commitment and true accomplishment brought me back for three more years. WoodsWork is the place that I feel the Holy Spirit most present."



## **Youth Testimonies**

- WoodsWork is indescribable. No words can express the feelings of love and fulfillment received while on WoodsWork. You have to experience WoodsWork first-hand to completely understand how powerful it is."
- "WoodsWork has really defined who I am throughout high school. It has given me a sense of meaning beyond myself".
- WoodsWork is the most extraordinary trip. I couldn't imagine my life without it. WoodsWork has substantially shaped who I am as a person; it made me discover my love of giving back."



SJP

Builders





DILLES

## WoodsWork Mission Trip Builds Home And Community

By Lauren Cowin Mother of 10 former foster children in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, will soon have a home tailored to her unique family, thanks in part to a group from Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park.

The WoodsWork mission trip has been a cornerstone of the Woods Church youth ministry for more than three decades. High school students and their adult chaperones — a combination of parents and devoted youth ministry volunteers — partner with Habitat for Humanity to spend a week onsite building a home.

At the end of June, 35 youth and 23 adults traveled to Kittanning to

partner with Armstrong Habitat for Humanity. The home they helped construct was an expansive six-bedroom rancher.

"Normally, Habitat has maybe a team of five people who are working on a house for a whole year or two years," said Elizabeth Cahoon, director of youth ministry at Woods Church.



The WoodsWork team from Woods Church helped construct a six-bedroom home in Kittan Pennsylvania, this summer. The WoodsWork group included 35 youth and 23 adults.

"In one week, we have as many as 5,000 people hours," said Vic Marone, adult chair of WoodsWork. "We frame a house from foundation up. We do all interior walls, exterior walls, the roof, and do windows and doors. So we can do that in five days, which is kind of impressive when you think about a bunch of youth that have no experience." Marone further explained that while first-time WoodsWork goers don't have experience, those who return year after year bring their skill: from previous missions with them.

One such student is Olivia Blake, a rising senior at Severna Park High School who completed her second WoodsWork mission this year and will serve as next year's youth chair It's really good, especially for kids in Severna Park, to get out and see communities other than the one that we live in, and be

#### AUGUST 2022

40



The WoodsWork team constructed walls in an offsite parking lot before taking them back to the house. WoodsWork's manpower shaves months off the time it would take Habitat for Humanity to complete a home.

#### » Continued from page 33

to be terrified of the heights, but one of the advisers encouraged me to try and get up on the roof, and I just crave that feeling. I love being up on the roof. I look forward to it every time."

She and the rest of the WoodsWork committee will get to work soon, as planning starts in September for next summer's trip. A priority for next year is increasing the number of youth involved, and Olivia's recruiting pitch goes deeper than building houses.

"You make some of your closest friends and such amazing connections with the youth and the adults in your community that the connections just last forever," Olivia said. "It's really good, especially for kids in Severna Park, to get out and see communities other than the one that we live in, and be able to help other people that might not be as fortunate."

This sentiment of the mission being bigger than the house is shared by the adults who help guide the young volunteers.

"We try and do our best to not just come, build a house and leave but really build a connection with the people there," said Cahoon, who had a chance this year to meet the home's future owner, a woman she deemed "a true superhero."

"We sometimes complain about our teenagers, but here is a group of teens that are working very hard, and they're doing it because they want to do it. It's very heartwarming to see that," Marone said.

### Building A Difference, One Home At A Time





Teens and adults from WoodsWork traveled to Kittanning, Pennsylvania, to build homes last June. The WoodsWork mission trip compacts the process into just one week, leaving behind a completed house frame.

#### Registration Is Now Open For Woods Church Mission Trip

#### **By Cooper Powell**

**F** or 38 years, Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church has partnered with Habitat for Humanity through a weeklong mission trip, known as WoodsWork, where high school students and adult chaperones build or restore a house for the homeless as well as participate in community-building and faith-related activities.

In 2023, the mission trip will return from June 22 to June 30 in Hartsville, South Carolina.

"Habitat's mission is to build homes for people who have a hard time purchasing their first home ... we help them by kind of accelerating the process," said Elizabeth Cahoon, Woods Church director of youth ministry.

While it often takes Habitat for Humanity several months or years to build a home with a limited number of volunteers, the WoodsWork mission trip compacts the process into just one week,

leaving behind a completed house frame. Youth chair Olivia Blake said not only does the family receive a house they can make into a home, but many of the families also help the team build the house.

"This experience provides them with amazing memories and helps them connect with the house more deeply," Blake said.

Blake, a Severna Park High School senior, has been a part of the WoodsWork mission trip and planning committee for the past two years and is the chair of the committee for her third year of WoodsWork.

Another Severna Park senior, Ryan Kohler, is looking forward to her second year of WoodsWork after a great first experience.

"I just thought it would be a really rewarding experience, which it was," Kohler said. "I didn't even know most of the people when I went on the trip, [but] we were still able to come together and make a house in a week."

The mission trip also offers other opportunities for participants, including daily programs, discussions of faith and recreational activities.

Cahoon said WoodsWork is a faith-centered mission trip in the Christian faith, but she added that the trip is welcoming to students of all religious backgrounds. "Somehow, maybe

it's God's grace, I don't know, everyone just feels welcome,"

Cahoon said. "I think it's a testament to having youth lead it."

The WoodsWork committee, made up of 13 students and six adults, has been meeting over the past couple of months to prepare for the summer trip, which Cahoon calls "a beacon of hope" in the community.

"When the week is over, we all feel like we are part of one big family," said Blake, who hopes to encourage more students to sign up this year. "The people you meet on Woodswork are truly lifelong friends."

Woods Church will host two orientations and a car-wash fundraiser for the trip in the coming months. This year, Woods Church plans to offer new workshops to assist youth in fundraising for their individual trip payment.

"They all bond with each other, and kids from different schools become very trusting of each other," said Vic Marone, head advisor of WoodsWork. "Seeing youth grow in a week's time is a very gratifying thing for me — that is where I get my joy."

Those wishing to register for this summer's WoodsWork can visit the mission trip's Instagram, @woodsworkmd, for more information, or check out the Woods Church website.











# HomeWrap

1111/25 (0 10 00 00 00 00 (1) (1) (0)

MeWrap.

Ye

ede.

PERSONAL PROPERTY AND

> 9) (11)

H

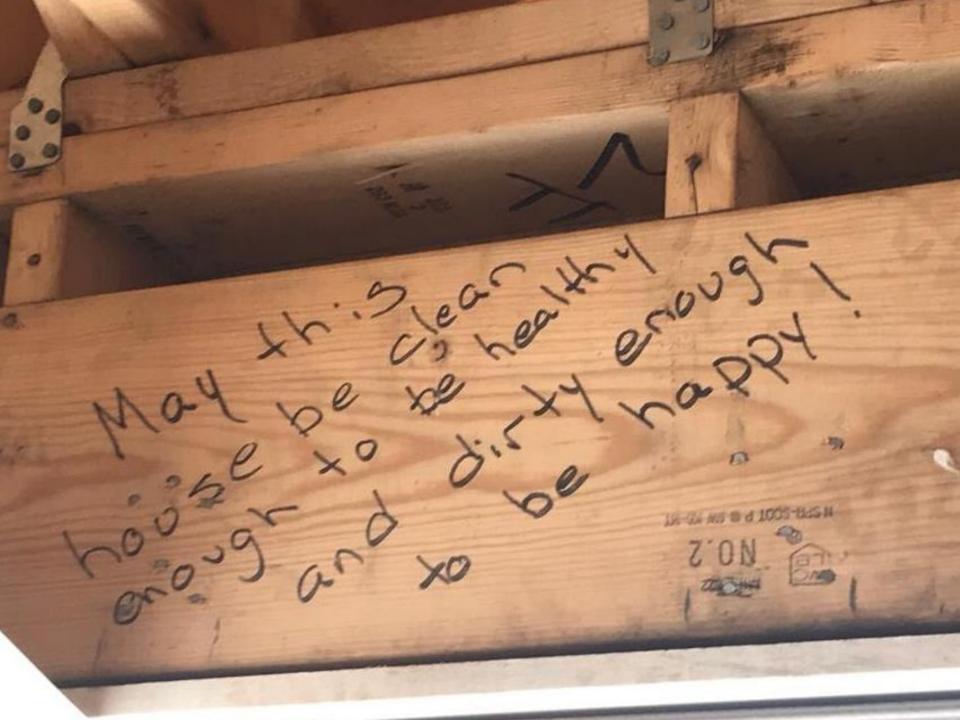
Sales Lean

Ten -

derWem?

**Nek** 

118'



Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church 611 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd Severna Park, MD 21146 410-647-2550 https://www.woodschurch.org/

### Andrew Wiley 2025 v1