



LIVING AS SERVANTS

Serving Christ Through Serving Others



Pictured: a home near Bremen, KY that was damaged in the December Tornado

Heartbreak and Hope in the Heartland

by Keith Cotton

It got quiet in the truck as we neared our destination. It was dark outside, but the change in our surroundings was still shocking; we were on a rural road and streetlights were scarce; the trucks' headlights illuminated an array of trees, bushes, and mailboxes. The change came suddenly; the trees disappeared, replaced by giant piles of debris. This was the mile-wide path of the tornado that tore through Bremen, Kentucky, and the surrounding community on December 10th, 2021.

The extent of the destruction became clearer in the morning as we returned to the fire house in Bremen where a command center has been established to coordinate the relief effort. The scope and scale of the storm is impossible to capture in words or pictures. Wind speeds approached 200 miles per hour as the tornado tore through Bremen. Some houses along the path were damaged, but most were destroyed; others disappeared entirely, a concrete foundation the only remaining sign of the home that once stood there.

Servant's first disaster relief team arrived a month after the storm. An estimated 60,000 cubic yards of debris had already been removed from the area. For some context, a dump truck's capacity is around 12 cubic yards. And while that number is astonishing, it barely makes a dent in the totals. In nearby Graves County, an estimated 2 million cubic yards of debris was produced by the storm.

Continued on next page

IN THIS ISSUE

**Home Helps:
2021 Review**

page 2



**CrossNet:
A New Partner in
Lancaster**

page 3



**Upcoming
Events**

page 3



**Second Life for
Bailey Bus**

page 4

Servants 2021 Review



315
calls for help



159
families served



324
completed projects



351
active volunteers



10,865
volunteer hours



\$423,000
community savings

Continued from page 1

It is easy to get overwhelmed when you read the numbers and survey the devastation. But when you meet people and hear their stories, the reality comes crashing back. The team had the opportunity to speak with several families who were impacted by the storm. As we listened to their harrowing and tragic stories, the physical and emotional exhaustion was evident.

We spent the morning of our third day picking up debris on a property several miles from the center of town – the home was still standing but the roof had been torn off. Amongst the pieces of wood, metal, and fibered insulation, we found a small, laminated piece of paper labeled “A Guide to Prayer.”

As we were wrapping up our work, a car pulled in and we got to meet Sue; she and her husband Tom had moved onto the property in 1964 and built their home there. She told us how they had weathered the storm together in their bathroom, how it shook the whole house, how it sounded like a bomb went off before turning completely silent, and how they didn’t realize the roof was gone until it started to rain, and their ceiling began collapsing. She told us about their plan to rebuild and how blessed they feel to still have each other despite losing so much. We recalled the Guide to Prayer we had found in her field and showed it to her. Sure enough, it had been a bookmark in her Bible, but she said she didn’t want it back; after 75 years she reckoned she knew how to pray by now.

Our talk with Sue lasted for a little while longer, and then we offered to pray with her before departing for our next job. She jumped at the opportunity and before any of us could muster anything beyond “Dear Lord,” Sue proved to us that she indeed did know how to pray. Her’s was a prayer of praise, thanksgiving, and hope. A prayer just as concerned with our team as it was with the long road of recovery that lays ahead for her family and their entire community. We were speechless in the moments after her “Amen.” Inspired and encouraged by her faith, we left with a new perspective. Amidst the destruction and the many piles of debris, there are tiny signs of hope that will help guide the rebuilding effort in Bremen and beyond. If you would like to support Servants’ efforts in the tornado recovery and rebuilding process, you can visit servants.org/disastervolunteer



Pictured above: Servants volunteers praying with a homeowner near Hartford, KY

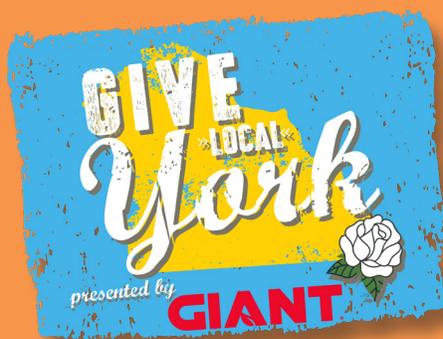


Looking Ahead in 2022

Servants Gala Friday, April 22

This year's gala will feature a live & silent auction, along with a fantastic meal provided by our host, the Stone Mill Inn.

More details can be found at servants.org/gala



Friday, May 6

Home Helps Summer Work Camps

Registration is now open for our summer work camps. Register at servants.org/workcamps

Faith Beyond the Pews

June 5 - June 10

York City Workcamp

June 26 - July 1

Home Helps Northeast

July 24 - July 29

A New Partner in Lancaster

In 2020, Servants created a five-year plan that included expanding our Home Helps ministry into five new counties. In addition to being the closest, we had some existing connections in Lancaster, so it was selected as the first growth area for 2021. It wasn't long after the goal was set that we crossed paths with CrossNet Ministries.

Crossnet Ministries exists to offer help and hope in the name of Jesus Christ by empowering people in Eastern Lancaster County. They accomplish this through multiple programs in the areas of Youth, Social Services, Food & Nutrition, and Community Outreach. In all of those areas they desire to build relationships and resources in the lives of the kids, teens, and adults they are serving.

The similarities between CrossNet's mission and Servants' resonated strongly, and when we learned of their desire to begin offering home repair services to their clients, a partnership seemed natural. Over the course of 2021 we began exploring how we could work together. CrossNet staff began completing Home Helps applications with participants in their network for needed home repairs, and as a result, volunteers completed five projects in ELANCO.

That was just the start of the Servants/CrossNet collaboration. At the start of 2022 Servants hired Kevin Ressler (see sidebar) as a full-time project manager for Lancaster County who will be working in ELANCO and throughout the county as our volunteer base grows and services expand. We are excited to see how God will work and grow His kingdom through this exciting new partnership!



Meet Kevin Ressler

Kevin officially joined Servants staff in January 2022 as a project manager for Home Helps Lancaster! He worked as a machinist for over 40 years, and he has served as a volunteer in home repair ministry since 2006. It was through that ministry that God developed his passion for home repair and helping people in need. When his boss retired at the end of 2021, it seemed like God's perfect timing to move into ministry full-time!

Kevin has been married to his wife Lynn for 32 years and they have one daughter, Mariah, who is 22 years old. Kevin is an avid hunter who enjoys being out in the woods.



**CrossNet
MINISTRIES**

Please ROUND UP

AT



793 Baltimore St. Hanover, PA 17331
TO SUPPORT:



SERVANTS

**SERVING CHRIST
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
TRANSFORMING LIVES
PROVIDING HOPE**

The Community Aid Thrift Store in Hanover has selected Servants as their round-up partner for the first quarter of 2022! Every shopper has the opportunity to round their purchase total up to the nearest dollar and those funds will be donated to Servants! Spread the word and support Community Aid!

Second Life for Bailey Bus

In the fall of 2021, Bailey Coach decided to give back to the community in a huge way! They wanted to donate one of their older buses to a local non-profit and partnered with Fox 43 to give it away. Servants was one of three non-profits in the running for the bus, and after all of the votes were counted Servants was declared the winner!

Just before the new year, we picked up the bus which had received a brand new custom wrap from Imagineered Signs. The bus seats 47 passengers, and also includes an electronic logging device, wi-fi capability, and an onboard camera system video monitoring system courtesy of Saucon. In addition, NFI Parts has

provided \$5,000 in parts for future repairs. Bailey has also committed to assist with future bus maintenance, which has accrued over 500,000 miles since 2006.



We feel privileged to be a part of this bus' second life and are already imagining the many ways that it will be a blessing to our ministry programs. In particular, this new resource enables us to take large teams to the heartland as the rebuilding process is beginning there.

We want to offer our sincere thanks once again to Bailey Coach, Imagineered Signs, Saucon, and NFI Parts for making it all possible through their desire to positively impact their community.

Staff Spotlight: Meet Amy Miller

Amy joined the Servants' team in January 2022 as our new Operations Coordinator. She initially connected with Servants as a volunteer, assisting in the office with administrative tasks, answering the phone, and completing applications with homeowners. As she volunteered, she found that she identified with Servants mission of serving Christ, building relationships, transforming lives, and providing hope. Amy is passionate about showing mercy, kindness, help and restoration to people in need.

Amy has been married to her husband Bart since July of 2021. Together they enjoy travel, biking, being outdoors, and music. Amy can also be found reading or working in her flower beds. She loves to encourage others with her favorite quote from Corrie Ten Boom: "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God!"

SERVANTS EXECUTIVE TEAM:

Founder/CEO - Trent Davis
Chief Operations Officer - Steve Fowler
Chief Program Officer - Lisa Sica