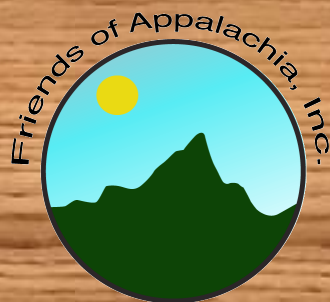


Friends of Appalachia, Inc. (FOA) is a Trumbull, Connecticut based Community Organization, open to all, which strives to educate and sensitize youth and adult volunteers to address the needs of the impoverished people in Central Appalachia.



[www.friendsofappalachia.org](http://www.friendsofappalachia.org)

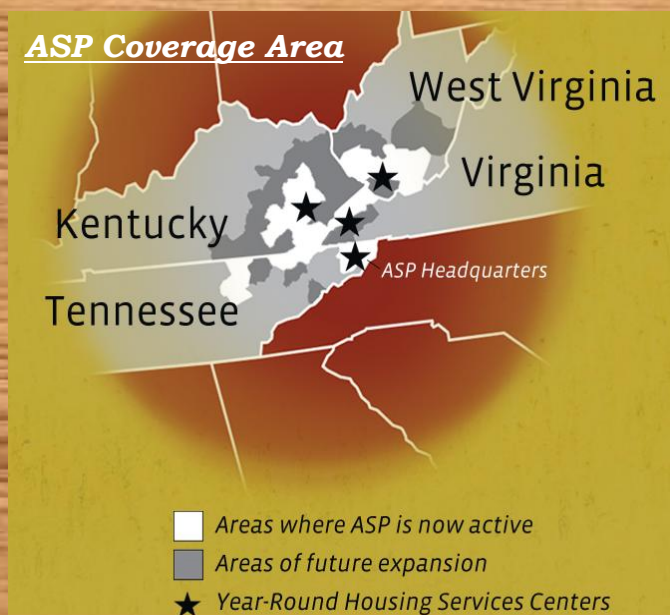
**SUPPORTING:**  
**APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT, INC.**  
[www.asphome.org](http://www.asphome.org)  
**KIDS FIRST DENTAL CARE**  
[www.kidsfirstdental.org](http://www.kidsfirstdental.org)  
**MISSION OF HOPE**  
[www.missionofhope.org](http://www.missionofhope.org)

**Central Appalachia: The height of beauty, the depths of poverty**



**In the region where ASP serves:**

- Poverty is more than double the national average
- One in four lives below the poverty level – 105,000 children, 195,000 adults, and 35,000 elderly
- 62,500 homes are substandard
- 19,000 homes lack adequate kitchens
- 21,000 homes lack complete plumbing
- Nearly half of the families have annual household incomes below \$20,000;
- The need is so great, ASP is only able to help one in ten families who apply for help. The more people who volunteer, the more families we can help.



**How can a region so rich in natural resources be so poor?**

- You can't build factories on mountainsides. You can't plant crops. And for more than a hundred years, large corporations have extracted natural resources while putting little back in the form of taxes or community support.
- Fundamentally, Central Appalachia's problems stem from the fact that in an eighty-county area, 72% of the surface acreage and 89% of the mineral rights are absentee-owned. Historically much of this land has been greatly under-assessed and under-taxed.
- As a result of this under-taxation, local municipalities have had very little revenue to finance adequate educational systems, construct and maintain water and sewage treatment facilities, provide for county landfills, roads, and basic health care.
- For many of these families, their modest houses – handed down from generation to generation – are the only real possession they have. But houses need maintenance.

Source: The Appalachia Service Project logo and related information was taken from [www.asphome.org](http://www.asphome.org).

**One Country, Two Worlds:**

**A Comparison of Fairfield County, CT to Typical Central Appalachia Areas**

Metric (year)	Fairfield County, CT	Martin County, KY	Johnson County, TN	Mingo County, WV	Buchanan County, VA
Median value of owner-occupied housing units (2000)	\$288,900	\$62,100	\$72,200	\$61,100	\$55,400
Median household income (2008)	\$84,250	\$22,841	\$28,918	\$27,438	\$26,571
Persons below the poverty level, % (2008)	8.2%	35.3%	25.8%	24.6%	23.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher, % of persons aged 25+ (2000)	39.9%	9.0%	6.9%	7.3%	8.0%
Building permits (2008)	1,814	0	2	1	34

Source: The United States Census Bureau State and County Quick Facts at [www.quickfacts.census.gov](http://www.quickfacts.census.gov).