



Baltimore County Christian Workcamp

PO Box 5082

Timonium, MD 21094

Website: www.bcchristianworkcamp.org

Email: info@bcchristianworkcamp.org

Facebook: Baltimore County Christian Workcamp

Our mission is to provide home repairs and assistance for the needy in

Introduction to the BCCW

40th annual Baltimore County Christian Workcamp July 16-21, 2023

The Baltimore County Christian Workcamp (BCCW) was founded by two United Methodist ministers in 1984. It is now run by lay people and is completely ecumenical, with volunteers of all faiths and beliefs involved. Typically, each year (pre-pandemic), **35 to 50 houses are repaired throughout Baltimore County**, during one week in July, and on a limited basis during the rest of the year.

It is structured like those workcamps that many travel far from home to attend for a week or more. However, with the work sites in the County, it has become a **commuters' workcamp** where volunteers may commit for one day or as many days as their schedules allow and can sleep in their own beds each night. As a result, the cost to participate and register is very nominal. In addition to home repair, many volunteers are needed to assist with **planning and organizing efforts** during the months leading to the Workcamp, and others are needed to help with **meals, auction and other required services** during the July volunteer week.

In pre-pandemic years, the week begins with a **silent auction, kick-off dinner, and orientation on the opening Sunday** at our host church, Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church in Riderwood (west of Towson).

Each workday starts with **breakfast** at the host church. After preparing a **bag lunch**, volunteer workers of **all ages and with varying skills and abilities** can choose a work site suitable to their talents and/or interests. **All types of repairs** are tackled both inside and outside -- plumbing, electrical, carpentry, dry wall, roofs, simple concrete work, ramps, porches, and steps, insulation, painting, caulking, yard work, general cleanup and other needs that might arise. Each night the volunteers meet for **dinner** at host churches and share their successes of the day and work plans for the next day. The week ends with a **special dinner and program on Friday evening**.

However, the last three Workcamps were held in a limited and modified format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Work was performed following prescribed health and safety precautions. To avoid large gatherings, in 2022 most meetings were held virtually, and the orientation and wrap-up dinners were both conducted mostly outdoors. Breakfast was held each morning at which limited prepackaged snacks were available for lunches, and one mid-week dinner meeting was conducted.

We are hoping to conduct a full version of the 2023 Workcamp as described above. However, we will also be prepared to hold it in a modified version, if health precautions again require that we do so. For more information, please visit our website noted above or contact us using the email address. You may also call the Chair at 410-667-1725.