

Black Mountain Children's Home (BMH), Black Mountain, NC. – June 2025





Fourteen ALCOM men and women traveled to Black Mountain, NC, to serve at the Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth and Families, a private, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Their mission statement is to glorify God by caring for children, youth, and families. After their homes are deemed unsafe or unhealthy, children are placed in the care of BMH by the court system and Department of Social Services in their home county. BMH serves children from birth through college age and beyond. Many of their children have been abused, abandoned, or neglected. Some may stay with them for only a few weeks, while others may spend a considerable part of their childhood in their care. BMH sustained major damage due to the flooding during Hurricane Helene. BMH has very few full-time staff. Our volunteer efforts are very much needed and very much appreciated.

The project for the men was to help with various Building and Grounds projects around the facility. We disassembled and removed a walk-in fridge and replace with a newer fridge, pressure washed the pavilion and amphitheater, caulked and painted a garden shed, repaired weed eaters and blowers, replaced a microwave and replaced a water heater in one of the family homes, moved a big ice maker from one building and installed in another, removed sports court flooring from the entire gym floor, replaced decking and repaired railing at one of the camp lodges, installed and repaired multiple electrical fixtures and systems, fixed two pond fountains, assembled furniture, helped get an apartment at the Independent Living complex ready for a new resident, and mowed grass. We knocked off many items from the BMH facilities work list. This was much appreciated as BMH only has four employees to handle all facilities and maintenance work and relies heavily on volunteers.

The Ladies were busy and working hard, too. The projects for the ladies included working in the office at the admin building answering phones and helping with various office tasks, working in the thrift store that supports Black Mountain Home, weeding the landscape around the campground lodge, and cleaning in the administration building, visitor apartments, thrift store café, lodge and bunkhouse for large groups, and the community building for the independent living apartments.

We enjoyed getting together for a couple of group meals in the campground lodge. Ken Conaway smoked chicken one night which was delicious, and everyone else added sides and desserts. The next week we had a fish fry. Our BMH contact for the men, Jim "Pop" Harmon, and our own Jerry Berry provided the fish, and Judy Conaway made

wonderful hush puppies! We made several trips into the cute little artsy downtown area of Black Mountain for pizza, tacos, and ice cream!

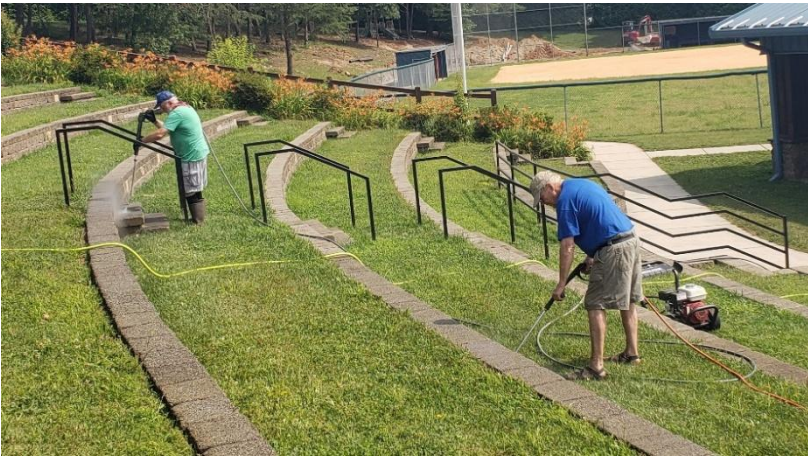
Additional information regarding BMH: The requirement for volunteers is to work at least 24 hours a week. They provide NO meals as children receive their meals in their respective homes. However, the café serves breakfast and lunch items at a reasonable cost. Located next to the campsites is an air-conditioned lodge containing a fully stocked kitchen, TV, internet, laundry, showers, screened porch with grill and fireplace.



*Scott & Eileen Bogardus – Project Leaders*



*Jerry & Gary – Tile installation*



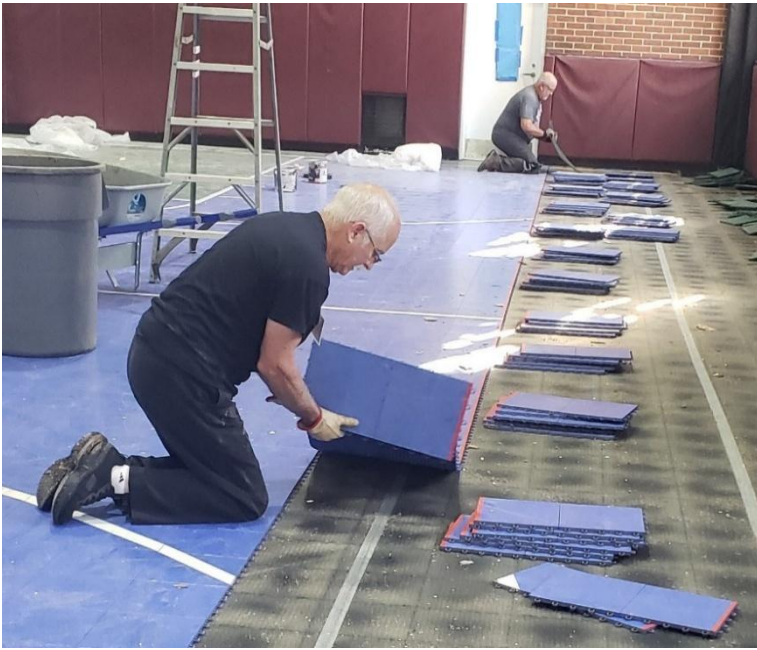
*Ken & Klaus – Pressure Washing*



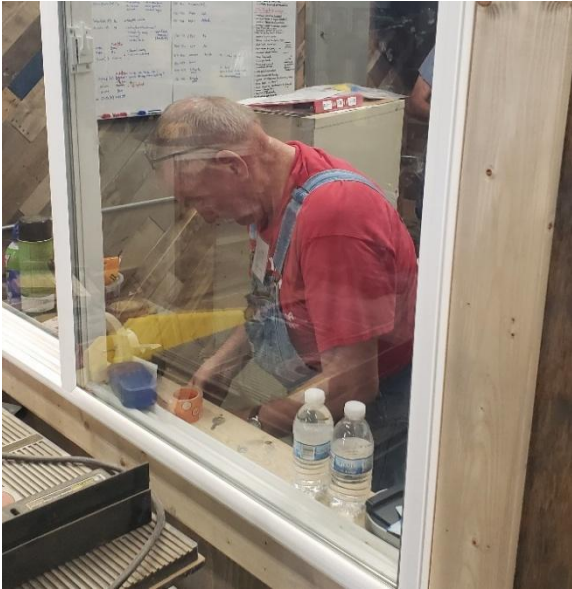
*Eddie – Wiring shop office*



*Jerry & Gary – Weed Eater Repairs*



*Jerry & Gary – Sport Court Removal*



*Randy – Wiring shop office*



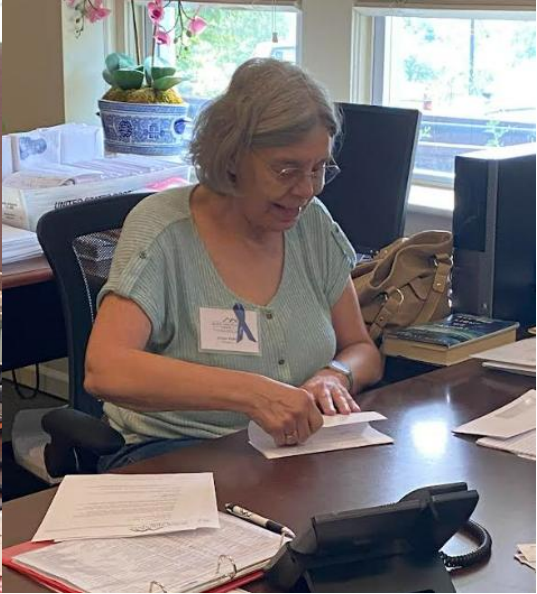
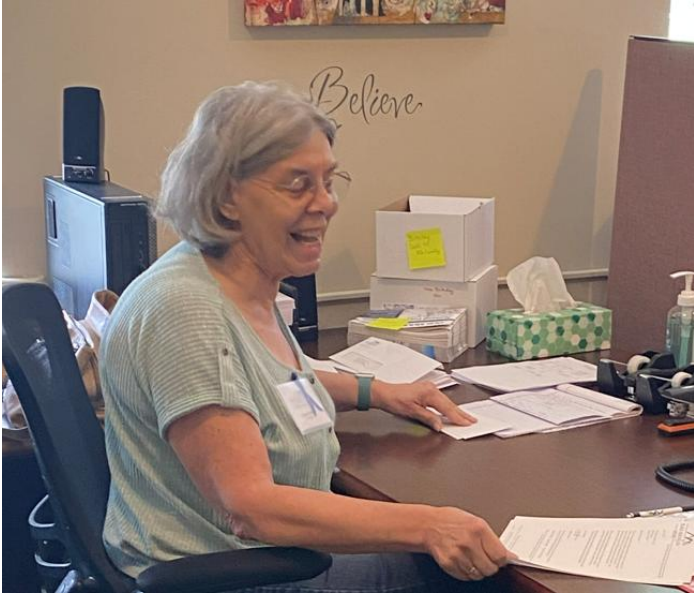
*Ken & Klaus – Water Heater Install*



*Scott – Garden Shed Painting*



Judy and Kay working at the thrift store



Diane answering phones and stuffing envelopes



Joan and Eileen cleaning at the main admin building



Marcia, Judy B., and Judy C. cleaning at the campground lodge



Joan, Eileen, and Diane weeding



Daily devotional in the campground lodge after lunch