



Home Works *of America, Inc.*

Volume 13, Number 1
P.O. Box 102 • Irmo, SC 29063

www.HomeWorksOfAmerica.org

Summer 2011
Phone (803) 781-4536

Home Works History

By Hank Chardos, Home Works Founder and Executive Director

It's been 15 years! Home Works began in 1990, when Hank Chardos joined his daughter on a Salkehatchie trip in Santee, SC. Hank walked away with two powerful feelings: one, amazement at the spirit and compassion teens showed that week; and two, disappointment the Catholic Church didn't offer teens the same opportunity.

Over the next few years, Hank kept volunteering at Johns Island, SC with his children. In 1996, Midlands N.A.I.L.S. (Neighborly Assistance in Living Safely) was formed by Hank, empowering teens to put their faith into action by repairing the homes of the elderly and disabled. Although it began Catholic, soon more Christians wanted to help and Midlands N.A.I.L.S. became an exciting work done by volunteers of many different faiths.

Prayer, the common bond of all religions, became the foundation of the workday for each session. The name soon changed to Home Works of SC, and as sessions expanded to Georgia, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Peru, the name became Home Works of America in 2006. For a while, every year the t-shirt was printed each new session location was added to the front panel.

That first year Home Works repaired 5 homes with the help of 131 volunteers. In 2010, Home Works repaired 166 homes with more than 2,100 volunteers! Currently over 1,600 homes have been. This was only possible because countless volunteers have been willing to assist Home Works with their hands and their hearts. There have never been more than three staff. Volunteers will always be the heart, hands, feet, and body of Home Works.

Throughout all these years, the spirit and compassion of youth and adults continue to be a blessing, and prayer is still at the heart of every repair Home Works performs.



Site leaders with Hank Chardos (second from the left) in Johns Island, SC in 1996.



Father James Lyon with a homeowner and youth volunteer during a house blessing in Valle Crucis, NC in 1996.



Youth volunteers work on a leaking roof during a hot summer session in Columbia, SC in July 2003.

In This Issue

- A Living Example of the Gospel
- Labor of Love Campaign
- Helping Hands and Hearts Award
- Works of Love Award
- Servant Scholar Awards
- A Tale of Two Sisters
- Summer Session Calendar