

## **Information Sheet for Hurley Virginia**

### **Hurley is**

- Located in the coalfields and mountains of Central Appalachia.
- A small isolated community in Southwest Virginia, with an estimated population of 3,774
- A community in which nearly 75% of the residents live on Black Lung, Mine Disability, or Social Security Benefits, of other transfer payments.

### **Hurley Has:**

- Limited economical opportunities. Coal mining and logging have been the major employees traditionally, but in recent years both industries have cut back their operations in the area.
- Until 1998 Hurley did not have affordable trash collection for everyone. Trash has been dumped down mountainsides and at the mouth of hollows. During spring floods trash is washed down to many streams and creeks flowing out of the area, littering the creek banks and polluting the water as it washes through to larger bodies of water.
- No sewer system> the local creeks and streams have been used to wash away household waste.

### **Hurley Community Development Inc.**

- Was formed by a group of concerned residents in 1995. Their goal is to empower the people in Hurley to overcome poverty without having to leave their hometown.
- Worked hard to establish, for the first time ever, mandatory trash collection in Buchanan County. It began in March 1996
- Has purchased the building used by Hurley Community Dev.
- Is working hard to improve their programs and establish the community of Hurley as an Alternative Break Mission host site.
- Operator Volunteer Home Repair Food Distribution, Youth and Environmental Program through Hurley community Development Center in Hurley.

### **If you come: What to expect**

- Hurley is an isolated rural community. There are no movie theaters, no fast food outlets, and few of the amenities found in towns and larger cities. Grundy, across the mountain from Hurley, does have the movie theater and fast food outlets. The trip across the mountain takes about 30 minutes one way. College/University Break groups are expected to remain at the center or on work sited, trips to Grundy are not allowed, except with program supervision.
- Community Volunteers work hard to make your visit a memorable and pleasant stay. Take time to get to know the people and share your stories with them.
- Expect fun along with work planned for you. We are not focused solely on work from sun up to sun down. We think life is meant to be enjoyed and shared, so occasionally a conversation takes precedence over work. We will get a lot accomplished and there will be plenty of work to be done.

- Expect opportunities to step forward and lead, expect freedom to express your opinion, expect an opportunity to experience different attitudes and experiences from your own.
- Expect Love and Friendship.

### **What not to expect**

- Do not expect community volunteers to pick up or clean up after you. It is your responsibility to keep the bunkhouse and community center clean while you are here.
- Do not expect hotel accommodations. The bunkhouse is equipped with bunk beds and two full bathrooms on each side for male and female.
- Do not expect to work constantly. There will be plenty to do, but there will be fun too.
- Do not expect everything to work perfectly or smoothly. Sometimes problems come up and you just have to do the best you can.
- Do not expect to change the world or our community in one visit. But remember that you do make a difference just by being yourself.
- Do not expect to leave Hurley without taking part of our hearts with you. Just by showing up you prove yourself to be a special person.

### **What you need to bring**

- Participants sleep in a bunkhouse they will need a twin sheet set, or a sleeping bag. They need toiletry items and a towel
- Local residence will cook the evening meal. The food is truly mountain/country cooking which is delicious and there is always plenty to go around.
- Bottled water is suggested the water in our area is hard, with high sulfur content. It smells awful and tastes even worse.
- Participants have access to the community center for meals, meetings, or just to socialize.

### **What it cost**

- The cost is \$52.00 per person per night

### **Hurley Requires**

- A release Form, Proof of Insurance, & Insurance liability Form
- A participate information form
- Photo/image Consent Form
- An open mind and willing heart