Wendy Bell of WTAE News was doing a story several months ago when she met Toni Turner and her 97-year-old grandmother Dorothy living in a crumbling house on Frankstown Road in Penn Hills. After she left their house she could not stop thinking about their poor and unsafe living conditions and decided she needed to do something about it. Wendy started to make phone calls to local building supply companies and construction contractors to see if they were interested in helping the Turner family. According to Wendy, she didn’t get a single no from the phone calls and shortly afterward the transformation of the Turner home began.

Before the restoration of the home began the conditions of the house included peeling flooring, crumbling walls, water damage, mold and asbestos issues and windows that hadn’t opened in years. Clutter and poor lighting conditions also contributed to unsafe living conditions as well as keeping visitors away including Toni’s grandchildren. “There have been times where I’ve invited them in and said, ‘If you’re coming to see my house, don’t come in. But if you’re coming to see me, OK,’” Dorothy said. The Turners said they could not afford to fix the home but thanks to the kindness and caring of dedicated volunteers and donations in the form of materials and labor from over 30 businesses, the Turner’s home was transformed.
G. S. Jones Consulting Team Helps Carrier Settle Joplin School District Losses

Joplin is a city in the southwest corner of Missouri with a population of 49,024 people. On May 22, 2011, the city of Joplin was devastated by an EF5 tornado which touched down at 5:41 pm. The massive tornado cut a path of destruction approximately 1 mile wide and nearly 7 miles long within the city limits and the overall length of the storm path was estimated by the National Weather Service at nearly 14 miles. Nearly 8,000 structures were estimated to be impacted by the tornado that include homes, churches, schools, businesses and one hospital.

The Joplin School District had several school and administrative buildings damaged which ranged from moderate damage to complete destruction.

The insurance carrier for the school district hired G. S. Jones to estimate the cost of repairs or replacement on a number of their damaged buildings which included an administration building, three elementary schools, two middle schools, and one greenhouse for the tech school. It took a number of visits to Joplin with a team of our consultants to gather all of the information needed to accurately calculate the costs, and after all the information was compiled, G. S. Jones consulted the carrier helping them to successfully settle those parts of the claim.

Best Places to Work cont.

The size categories, which are based on full-time permanent employees, are as follows:

Small Co. = Up to 50 employees
Medium Co. = 51 to 150 employees
Large Co. = 151 + employees

Counties surveyed for the list include Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland.

The online survey consists of a series of questions that the employees rate on a scale and the results are sent anonymously so the participants will be as truthful as possible. The survey also encourages comments about the company and the following excerpt was submitted by one of G. S. Jones’ employees.

“To me, G. S. Jones is a great place to work. I am very happy at my job. It is a comfortable, laidback atmosphere. The company and employees take pride in the quality of work done. We are concerned about making a customer happy as much as making a profit.”

FUN FACTS

- Pittsburgh lost the “h” in its spelling in 1891, but after 20 years of protest, the US Board on Geographic Names relented and the “h” was restored.
- If you counted 24 hrs a day, it would take 31,688 years to reach one trillion.
- If you put a raisin in a fresh glass of champagne, it will rise and fall continuously.
- In Cleveland, Ohio, it is illegal to catch mice without a hunting license.

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