

FAMILY'S REACTION STUNS VOLUNTEERS

A recent project seemed straightforward in the beginning: A mother of a sizable family, abandoned by her husband, caring for three of her children who remained at home, two of whom had special needs while trying to manage State Agencies taking care of a son in their custody, was witness to her home falling into serious disrepair. Helping this family was a no-brainer, but we failed to anticipate the outcome.

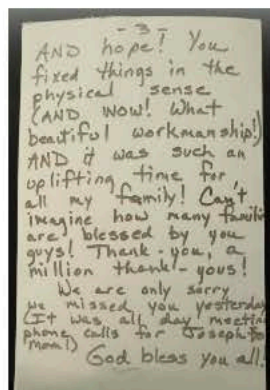
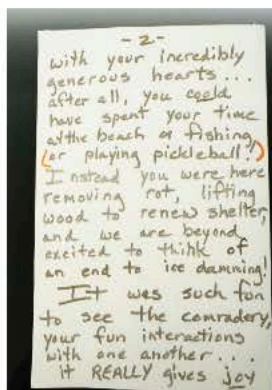
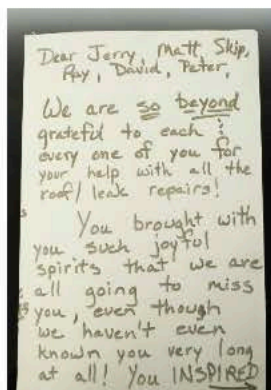
The most serious issue was water damage to her kitchen ceiling (it collapsed) due to ice damming on the upper roof. There were myriad other issues. Windows that were missing or drafty were our secondary concerns. So, we tackled the roof issue first. The detail of our steps to repair the roof, install gutters, and run heating cables is not our story; it's about the family's generosity. While we worked, they brought us coffee with various flavorings—her daughter made simple syrup for sweetener. There was chilled, bottled water and freshly baked cookies. We shamelessly consumed their largesse!

Their generosity and our more than willing enjoyment of it was compounded by accepting an invitation to dine in the house with table cloth and china. While the family hovered over us, re-filling our plates and glasses, we quickly dispatched a savory pasta accompanied by warm bread and sweet beverages. Along with the exceptional food and service inside, we received equally warm accolades of appreciation and gratitude for what we were doing outside. It was more than a volunteer could ask for.

And then, at the completion of our tasks, as we were packing up our tools, we discovered a posting to our trailer. A note crafted by mother and children. Warm. Heartfelt. Sincere. There it was! In writing—hard evidence of how we had touched their lives. We took in every word and, frankly, did so with not a little emotion and with the full realization that the depth of their gratitude was a greater reward than anything we could have imagined.

A reward that is shared by you as well. Your donations of money and time make outcomes like this possible. We may be the direct beneficiaries of the thanks, but you are no less deserving.

This is the season of giving. Donate or sign up as a volunteer—or send us a deserving homeowner who needs our help. The rewards are humbling.

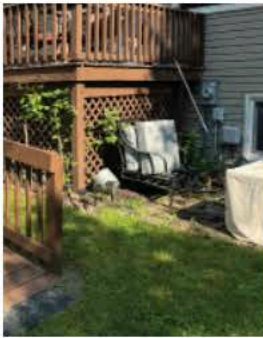





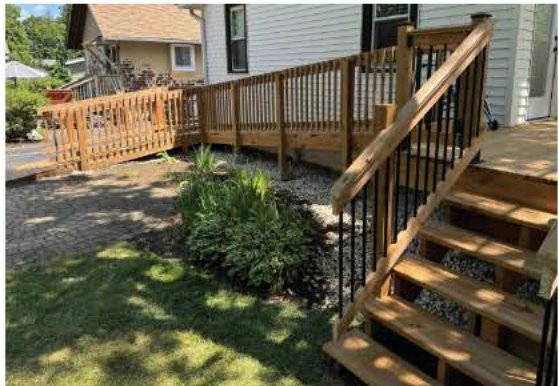
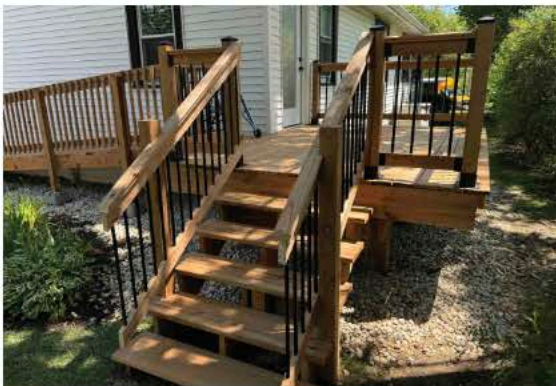
Volunteers
Repairing Homes.
Restoring Hope.



Ramps R Us. You may remember our success installing a wheelchair elevator and ramp for an ALS patient that we described in our last BluePrint. That success required additional work to connect the ramp to her patio so she could navigate the uneven ground that kept her from experiencing the full enjoyment of her new home. We removed the existing uneven pavers and built a completely new patio that connected to the wheelchair ramp.



We Ramp Up Our Efforts. We're now confident that handicapped ramps are solidly in our wheelhouse. WINGS had a family with a 10-year-old boy needing a home that was wheelchair accessible. Without hesitation, we made that happen. It required adding a new exterior door that opened to a deck that led to a 36-foot ramp. Our design was sensitive to preserving the appearance of the neighborhood (no ramp visible from the street) while maintaining proper requirements for slope. 





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When completed, several volunteers remarked that they would like to have a deck as attractive at their homes. As we grow, our work—as volunteers with newly acquired skills—approaches the esthetic and structural level of professional tradesmen.

OTHER PROJECTS (PARTIAL)

Mitigating code violations: the main flooring in one home was deemed a hazardous condition by the local authority. Additionally, the drywall was unfinished. The homeowner was threatened with fines and possible eviction. We sealed the drywall, repaired the subfloor, and installed new flooring throughout—complete with baseboard and base shoe molding.

In another instance, we were asked by the [HOA] to help an 80+ single woman whose home exterior was deteriorating to the extent that some action by the subdivision authority was likely. Thanks to your donations, our newly purchased scaffolding allowed us to complete this complicated project to the full satisfaction of the community.

Two other projects—both of which are current and ongoing—we immediately addressed the lack of heat for the families. In one, a new furnace was required. **McHenry Heating & Air, Inc.,** installed a new furnace at a dramatically discounted price to us as part of their support of charitable community service.

At the request of The Barrington Area Council on Aging (BACOA), we are helping a single woman homeowner. Critical among her issues was that she had no heat and no hot water. The next day, we had her heating restored. Then we quickly installed a new water heater—both “hot” issues were resolved before the recent blast of cold weather. The following week, we unplugged a wall-mount toilet drain and installed a new toilet, which required substantial repair of rotted flooring and back wall. Less immediate needs will be addressed in the new year.

***We couldn't continue to share these wonderful stories without your support.
By using volunteer labor, a small amount of money will fund a large project.
Please consider a contribution to The Build Team this Holiday Season.***

Donations can be made online at thebuildteam.org or by check to the corporate office.
All donations are fully tax deductible

The Build Team 119 Joan Drive, Barrington, IL 60010

