

HOMELESS VETERANS HOME REPAIR UPDATE



Cherokee County Homeless Veterans Program

10th Edition

Home Depot Grant Report

Team Depot Grant - \$2,000

VETERANS FROM TWO STATES COME OUT TO BUILD WW2 VETERAN A RAMP

WW2 Army Veteran Cecil Pastel's daughter Charlyne, from Murphy North Carolina, was visiting the Blue Ridge Georgia Home Depot and asked if Home Depot does any type of home repair programs for elderly and disabled Veterans. To her surprise, Yes, the Home Depot has a program that does such work answered Stephanie Dempsey the store Team Depot Captain. She then contacted Fred Brown the Regional Team Captain from Dawsonville. Fred Brown, knowing that the Team Depot team would like to partner on such a project, then reached out to Jim Lindenmayer, Service Officer for the Canton American Legion Thomas M Brady Post 45 and Director of the Cherokee County Homeless Veterans program for help.

Within a few days of initial contact, the Home Depot Team and the American Legion had designed the project, costed out the materials and submitted the material grant request to the Home Depot Foundation for funding consideration. Within a few short weeks, the grant request was approved for funding allowing the project for a wheelchair ramp to move to the next stage.

Although the paperwork and the Home Depot Store were in Georgia, the project was some 60 minutes north in Murphy North Carolina. Jim Lindenmayer, worked with Stephanie to reach out to various stores and Veteran groups within the area to identify a volunteer work force needed to help build the ramp. Stephanie was focused on reaching out to other local Home Depot Stores for her labor force, but getting Veterans to help on this hot summer project required some request that crossed state lines.

Jim's first action was to research for another American Legion post that might be local in North Carolina that he could work with. What he found was a local post in Murphy North Carolina, Post 96, that agreed to help, but had never done any type of home repair project previously, but were eager to lend a hand. David Haney of Post 96 agreed to step in and work with Jim and soon a working team was created. To add others to the project, Jim reached out to a number of Georgia based Veteran Organizations and found a readily available group of Veterans from the Lake Blue Ridge #1438 Marine Corps League Detachment and Woodstock Georgia American Legion Post 316.

About Giving Back at The Home Depot

Since the first The Home Depot store opened in 1979, giving back has been a core value for the Company and a passion for its associates. Today, The Home Depot, in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation, focuses its philanthropic efforts on improving the homes and lives of U.S. military Veterans and their families and aiding communities affected by natural disasters. Through Team Depot, the Company's associate-led volunteer force, thousands of associates dedicate their time and talents to these efforts in the communities where they live and work.



Home Depot, veterans come together for World War II vet

By **MATTHEW OSBORNE**
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Liberty – Charlyne Kimsey walked into Home Depot in Blue Ridge, Ga., last month and asked a simple question. She wanted to know if there were any special programs to help local U.S. military veterans with home repairs.

It was a good thing she asked, because that's all it took to get veterans groups and Home Depot officials to spring into action.

Kimsey was seeking help for her father, World War II veteran Cecil O. Postelle, who needed a new ramp for his wheelchair.

Postelle, 91, was having difficulty getting to his car on the rare occasion that he needed to leave his secluded home in the western part of Cherokee County.

Jim Lindenmayer of American Legion Post 45 in Canton, Ga., has been involved in dozens of these projects. He was glad to take on another even two hours away.

"Here you have a World War II veteran who is basically homebound, doesn't get out much," Lindenmayer said. "But here we have veterans from four groups coming in to build this thing. They walk away, and he doesn't pay a thing."

Lindenmayer said it was a true community project, with organizations coming together to support Home Depot's project team – along with high school students scheduled to come out and stain the new ramp in a few months.

The other organizations helping out included Woodstock (Ga.) American Legion Post 316, Blue Ridge Marine

Corps League Detachment No. 1438 and American Legion Post 96 from Cherokee County.

Stephanie Darsey, the project manager from Home Depot, said a veteran also stepped up and paid for the construction permit.

"One of our goals at the American Legion is to keep veterans in their houses longer," Lindenmayer said. "We apply for these grants for those who are honorably discharged, elderly, disabled or financially in need, and we get the project done."

Postelle was humbled and grateful for the efforts to help

him.

"These are wonderfully nice people and I appreciate it," said Postelle, who said he was proud to see veterans sticking together and taking care of each other.

Darsey added another part to the project when the workers noticed Postelle's door was not wide enough to be up to code. They replaced his 32-inch door with a 36-inch one leading onto the back porch, where the new ramp connects.

"Our goal is by 2028 to have done \$28 million worth of projects for veterans," Darsey said.



Mark Canfield and several others volunteer to help build a new, wheelchair-accessible ramp for World War II veteran Cecil O. Postelle.

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Giving a Hand Up—Programs that help our Vets

We are grateful to have the material support, and especially the team support, from the Home Depot Blue Ridge Store and the Home Depot Foundation. Through the efforts of people like Stephanie Dempsey, Fred Brown, Team Depot Captain, and the many volunteers of local Home Depot Stores such projects for Veterans like Cecil are made possible.

The American Legion is proud to be able to help support these efforts and have enjoyed doing such projects for over 5 years. .



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Contact Us

Give us a call or send us an email for more information about the program.

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