

HOMELESS VETERANS HOME REPAIR UPDATE



Cherokee County Homeless Veterans Program

19th Edition

WOODSTOCK VIETNAM VETERAN OVERCOMES MOBILITY LIMITATIONS WITH NEW RAMP

HOME DEPOT GRANT NUMBER— 202000090

Veterans who served our nation are not just to be thought of during Veterans or Memorial day. They live, work, and have families in the same neighborhoods that we do and sometimes as they get older complications to their health and well-being set in many years after they have hung up their uniforms. George Gantz who is an Air Force Veteran encountered a medical condition that required one of his legs to be amputated below the knee.

What used to be easy to do such as walking off his porch to his sidewalk now required some assistance and changes to his lifestyle. George is a member of Woodstock American Legion Post 316 and as such was recommended to our program for a Home Depot Foundation home repair grant. The grant process usually takes several weeks to gain approval, however, the grant submission came during the COVID-19 foundation shuttering of projects and Team Depot's COVID protocol which would not allow Team Depot members to take part of projects.

We have all come to understand the issues of COVID, however, this Veteran still had a need for a ramp in order to help him perform daily mobility needs to include getting to his garage where he spends his time rebuilding Ford tractors.

With the help of Pro-Desk and team Depot Store Captain George Towle and District Team Depot Fred Brown, we were able to convince Home Depot foundation that a number of the grants we had submitted were high priority projects that were needed and with the understanding that we could not have support of Team Depot members we were awarded this grant to move forward with.

Our project team lead by designer and Vietnam Navy Veteran Roger Mickelson and Post Service Officer Mike Satterly from Post 316 were able to temporarily ignore the COVID issue and went about building this Veteran his needed ramp. It was our way of paying it forward to honor the service of this Veteran and showing that Veterans served in all sorts of weather, and conditions during our time in uniform. Our team had a COVID protocol plan if need be and we were able to conduct this project in a safe a manner as was dictated at the time.

We are grateful for the understanding of Home Depot Team Depot and Foundation for the need to move forward on this and a few other projects. We also want to thank George Towle, Pro-desk and Jasper Team Depot Captain for the help with ordering and delivering the product during a time when materials were scarce. This would be the last project we were able to work with George as he has since retired from Home Depot. Teamwork as we have developed with the local Home Depot Stores and the Home Depot Foundation is what makes doing these projects such fun and never a burden.



PICKENS COUNTY ARMY VETERAN OVERCOMES MOBILITY LIMITATIONS WITH NEW RAMP

HOME DEPOT GRANT NUMBER— 202000318

This ramp project is for a disabled Army Veteran who has mobility issues due to his time in the service. The project was one of the last projects approved by Home Depot Foundation during COVID and was scheduled to be done in 2021. The project was to be completed by Legion Post 149 of Jasper, however, due to multiple issues the project was undertaken by the Veterans Home Repair team from Cherokee County.

Starting in late November of 2021 the project seemed to be more off than on due to weather and finally on a frigid morning that never got above 21 degrees the project was completed and in the books. We were very lucky to have a number of volunteers such as Jack Bergan, Tom Moore, Jeff Dobbs, Robert Wynn, Cory Brown, Mike Satterly, myself and team design lead Josh Lear give up parts of their holiday time to help complete the project.



Giving a Hand Up—Programs that help our Vets

We want to thank all of our volunteers and companies that made this project possible and who were willing to work on a project to help make a difference in a Veterans life during COVID. It would have been easy to stay home and not do these projects, but we had a number of volunteers show up for each project we did during COVID which numbered 4 in total. I am sure that the lunches of hot dogs and chips were way worse.

Lastly, I want to thank Roger Mickelson who has been our designer, mentor and friend for the past six years that we have been doing these projects for Veterans. Even though Roger was not on the last project, he still came up with the design and BOM from his house in Wisconsin. We also want to thank George Towle who was our Team Depot Team Captain and friend on many of our projects. George finally retired from Home Depot and we wish him and his family well.



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

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