PAY IT FORWARD - HABITAT CRITICAL REPAIR

Terry Paquette - September 9, 2013

Habitat for Humanity – Powhatan (HFHP) is more than a home builder. As part of HFHP’s Critical Repair Program, volunteers perform a host of much-needed repairs for residents in the county who are not able to do so themselves. A wheel chair ramp is a common need.

In August, HFHP had a backlog of requests for two wheel chair ramps. Following the unfortunate passing of Dick Rabon, a longtime Powhatan resident, HFHP was informed by the Rabon family that an extensive wheel chair ramp at their home was no longer needed. It was the family’s hope that the ramp could be used to help others. And, that’s exactly what happened.

Over a period of three weeks, more than 20 volunteers removed the ramp from the Rabon home and used the components to build the two requested ramps. In the first week, the ramp in the Rabon’s backyard was cut into 7 sections, 4 of which were 14 feet long and very heavy. These sections were then transported to the 2 homes needing ramps. In the second week, a ramp was built at a home on Jefferson Landing Road. In the third week, a second ramp was built at a home on Hearthstone Lane.

The volunteers agreed it was a pleasure to see the happy faces on the ramp recipients. And, none of this would have happened were it not for the generosity and forward thinking of Gladys Rabon, who wanted to help her neighbors and honor her late husband Dick. Thank you Gladys!