



# CHM Build Buzz

2021 Mid-Year Newsletter



Pictured (left to right):

**Don Taylor** (CHM Executive Director), **Sally Dowling MD** (AGH VP of Medical Affairs & Co-Interim President & CEO), **Peggy Bradford** (CHM Board Member), **Vernon Rivers** (CHM Board Chair), **Kim Justice** (AGH VP of Planning/Operations & Co-Interim President & CEO), **Tracey Age RN BSN** (Worcester County Health Department - Community Health Program Manager/ Adult Services), **Mary Beth Carozza** (MD State Senator)

## NEW PARTNERSHIP WILL REDUCE UNSAFE LIVING CONDITIONS IN WORCESTER COUNTY

The Chesapeake Housing Mission, Atlantic General Hospital and the Worcester County Health Department are partnering to form the “Healthy Homes Initiative,” a three-pronged approach to reducing the growing number of unsafe and unhealthy living conditions found in homes in Worcester County.

This partnership is the first of its kind in our region and is focused on people living below the poverty level. The main goal of this initiative is prevention of falls and other illness caused by living in an unhealthy environment.

A news conference and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for this partnership was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin. The media and community were invited to this event to learn more about the Healthy Homes Initiative.

Chesapeake Housing Mission will provide critical home repair services to Worcester County residents living below the poverty level. CHM will design, obtain permits and provide all materials for the projects.

Atlantic General Hospital and Health System will provide employee work teams to complete projects and reimburse CHM for materials for each project.

The Worcester County Health Department will collaborate with CHM to screen vulnerable adults who may be in need of critical home repairs and work on a training program on home safety and health.

A collaboration between these three groups will facilitate improved living conditions for poverty level residents helping them to remain safely in their homes, reduce the risk of falls and other health problems, increase access to services and offer an improved quality of life in Worcester County.

A recent outcomes study found that client falls were reduced by more than 90% after completion of their CHM projects.





**A message from  
Don Taylor, Executive Director**

Well! We did think it would be all over by now, didn't we! The first 6 months of 2021 were still a challenge and the biggest one was lumber costs that went up 50% to 100% over 2019 prices. We spent an additional

\$40,000 on lumber for the same number of projects this year. As you can imagine, we were scrambling but some of you made contributions in answer to our appeals and we were grateful to a few of our local banks who also helped. We have survived and are back on track with a huge backlog of clients waiting for our help.

Our typical wait list during the summer is 30-35 clients. This summer that grew to 64. Many people in need are waiting 6 months for help. During an average year, we get 110 referrals from our agencies. This year we already have 120 and anticipate that will go to 150 before the year is done. That is a 36% increase in need.

We have some wonderful volunteer groups who have worked through the COVID issues and kept us going. We still have a few who are not comfortable volunteering until the situation improves. We have put protocols in place to protect our clients, volunteers and staff. After two summers of COVID, we feel we can conquer anything! God is looking down upon us in our work.

Our biggest news is that we partnered with Atlantic General Hospital and the Worcester County Health Department to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together and share resources to focus on improving poverty housing conditions in Worcester County. This is our **Healthy Homes Initiative – Worcester County** (see front page for the full story).

Please keep those donations coming in to help us reduce the backlog of clients still waiting. We certainly appreciate your support!

## OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

71

Projects completed (Jan thru Sept 2021)

642

Projects completed (thru Sept 2021)

125

Persons helped (Jan thru Sept 2021)

1,933

Persons helped (thru Sept 2021)

566

Volunteers (Jan thru Sept 2021)  
2,787 Volunteer Hours

10,780

Volunteers (thru Sept 2021)  
67,903 Volunteer Hours

**Christ** has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours.

**Yours** are the eyes through which compassion of Christ must look out on the world.

**Yours** are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.

**Yours** are the hands with which He is to bless His people.

*- Attributed to St. Teresa of Avila*

## Wheelchair Ramp Project for Mark B.

Volunteers: Atlantic General Hospital Leadership  
Project Performed in Worcester County on April 17



Mark B, a 58-year old veteran and a chef, lives in Worcester County and needed a ramp project to assist with mobility issues. Led by CHM Project Manager Don Taylor, a team from Atlantic General Hospital assembled on Saturday April 17th to construct the wheelchair ramp.



**"I found the ramp project to be tremendously rewarding!"**, said Sarah Yonker from the AGH Leadership team. "I had not anticipated the comradery that developed among the volunteers but also between the volunteers and the client family. It was truly a team-building and community strengthening experience."

Mark, who enjoys cooking for family and friends and making birdhouses in his spare time, was certainly touched by the volunteers. **"Words ring hollow for the true appreciation that I have for the Chesapeake Housing Mission in**

**supplying me with a ramp. From the kindness of strangers, God bless each and every one of you."**



## YOU HAVE THE POWER TO GIVE SAFER AND HEALTHIER HOUSING

**Over 600 families** have already benefited from your support. Would you please make a financial commitment to CHM to continue our efforts in providing critical home repair and building wheelchair ramps for our neighbors? **Your gift will yield incredible life-changing results for those we serve.**

Perhaps you might consider a monthly gift? CHM always values you and ask you to consider the possibilities that regular gifts can bring.

Please use the enclosed envelope or visit [chesapeakehousingmission.org](http://chesapeakehousingmission.org) and click on the **DONATE NOW** button.

## Wheelchair Ramp Project for Laura H.

Volunteers: Salisbury University Residence Life  
Project Performed in Wicomico County on March 19



Laura H., 58, a civil servant living in Wicomico County with her partner Dave, has issues with her balance. The need for a wheelchair ramp for her home was imperative for the mom of one, and one grandchild.

The SU Residence Life team led by Dave Gutoskey and Rick Nelson came together, about 18 in all, and begin constructing the ramp on a cool March morning. For Laura, this will help keep her and Dave safer when exiting and entering the home.

She was truly emotional when the project was complete, saying **"To everyone who helped build our ramp, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! You all are a blessing to our community and the world."** Laura also mentioned that the ramp and porch are not only functional but looks great as well. **"Thank you again for your generosity, caring, skills, and time"**, Laura said excitedly.



## THANK YOU SPONSORS



Community Foundation  
OF THE EASTERN SHORE



Franklin P. & Arthur W. Perdue Foundation



United Way of the  
Lower Eastern Shore



The John B. Parsons Foundation



HUMPHREY'S FOUNDATION

THE PHILIP AND BARBARA LONG FAMILY FOUNDATION

**Wheelchair Ramp Project for Paula E.**  
 Volunteers: SU Beta Alpha Psi Honors Society  
 Project Performed in Wicomico County on April 10



The Salisbury University Beta Alpha Psi Honor Society performed a wheelchair project on April 10<sup>th</sup> for Paula S, 61, a widow and mother of 2 sons and 7 grandchildren. Paula worked in hotel management and is an ordained minister. This was the SU Beta Alpha Psi Honor Society's second project with CHM.

Limited in her mobility, Paula noticed 4 places in in her flooring that had rotted and were falling in. CHM assessed the situation and returned promptly to sure up the holes. They also noticed rotten boards in the wheelchair ramp and it was also too steep to be very beneficial. "I have some days where getting around is extremely painful."

The SU volunteers under Project Manager David Mayonado braved the rain, tore down the old ramp, and rebuilt a new ramp and porch. Paula added that **"This ramp will most definitely last my lifetime, I feel truly blessed. I know that CHM is God's hands outreached. Thank you very much."**

**Wheelchair Ramp Project for Serena W.**  
 Volunteers: SVN Miller Commercial Real Estate  
 Project Performed in Wicomico County on March 27



Mrs. Serena W., age 86, a former Teachers Aid at Somerset Headstart, has had a severe decline in mobility over the years. She and her husband have been married 58 years, raised 3 children, and have 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Serena grew up in Chance and she and her husband have lived in their current home for over 40 years.

The ramp project was completed by a volunteer team from SVN Miller Commercial Real Estate, their 6th project with CHM. One volunteer for SVN mentioned that the CHM builds are very well run, and **"each time we are so humbled by the recipients and we tend to go the extra mile to help them out."**

Serena's family says the ramp provides convenience for her walker, wheelchair and cane and allows them to transport her to doctor appointments, grocery store, and makes her feel a lot safer leaving and entering the house. The family added that **"God truly used your (CHM) mission work as a blessing to us."**



**We are always looking for volunteer project managers to help us keep costs down. Training is provided. Volunteer for 1 or more projects annually and around your own schedule. We'd love to have you join our team!**



**VOLUNTEER PROJECT MANAGERS NEEDED**

Contact us at [chesapeakehousingmission.org](http://chesapeakehousingmission.org)

**Wheelchair Ramp Project for Betty H.**  
 Volunteers: SU United Way & SU Honors Society  
 Project Performed in Somerset County on April 24



Betty H., 73, who retired from working at the Worcester County Jail, lives with her husband in Somerset County. She has nothing but love in her heart and dearly loves her 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Betty uses a wheelchair and walker because of mobility issues.

Led by Team Leader Johannah Cooper and Project Manager Rick Nelson, the Salisbury University United Way and Salisbury University Honors Society teamed up to perform a ramp build for Betty on April 24.



Betty's husband, Bo, had nothing but praise for the build team, "We are truly blessed to have groups like yours in this world. It (ramp) has already made Betty's doctor visits and trips to physical therapy much more manageable."

CHM's Rick Nelson said this project not only meant something to Betty and her husband, adding, "When Mr. and Mrs. H. came out when the ramp was complete, I think the volunteer team got it. They realized what a difference they made in someone's life."

Since 2012, Rick, CHM's Operations Director, has served as project manager for 119 projects serving 241 individuals. Rick is a huge part of our success!

**THANK YOU to our Agency Partners for helping us identify those in need!**

- MAC
- Delmarva Community Services
- Somerset County Commission on Aging
- Worcester County Commission on Aging
- TidalHealth
- Peninsula Home Care
- Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Health Depts

**Wheelchair Ramp Project for Fayette P.**  
 Volunteers: CHM Women's Team  
 Project Performed in Wicomico County on May 1



The CHM Women's team performed a wheelchair project for Fayette P., 58, in Wicomico County on May 1. Struggling with health and mobility issues, she was having trouble going up and down steps to her home.

Fayette who worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant and served 6 years in the Army Reserve, watched as the CHM Women's team led by Project Manager Maureen Williams, got to work. "Thanks to all for two great days of work and fun!", said Williams. I couldn't have asked for a more motivated team."

This will help Fayette gain access to her house without the pain that she has suffered with since being diagnosed with a chronic disease in 1989. She also commented on the work of the team, saying "I would recommend this group of ladies to someone that needed help with their quality of life. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart."

## Board of Directors

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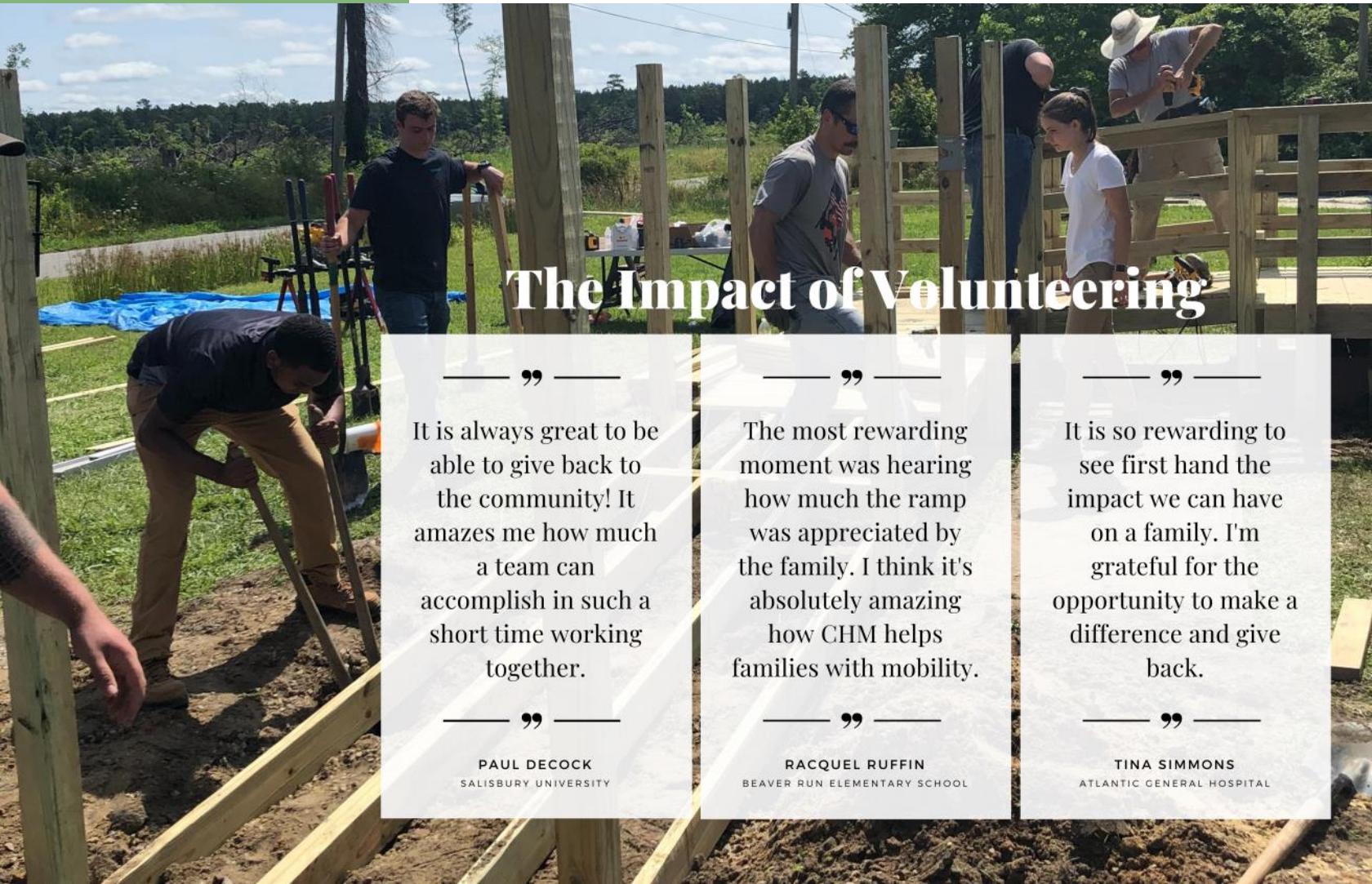


Chesapeake Housing Mission

P.O. Box 1061, Salisbury MD 21802  
410.546.4534 | [www.chesapeakehousingmission.org](http://www.chesapeakehousingmission.org)



Chesapeake Housing Mission was formed to provide critical home repair services through Christian Mission to low-income families living in the Chesapeake Region and is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 non-profit. CHM partners with volunteer teams from local organizations giving them the opportunity to help families in need in Maryland's Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.



## The Impact of Volunteering

It is always great to be able to give back to the community! It amazes me how much a team can accomplish in such a short time working together.

PAUL DECOCK  
SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

The most rewarding moment was hearing how much the ramp was appreciated by the family. I think it's absolutely amazing how CHM helps families with mobility.

RACQUEL RUFFIN  
BEAVER RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It is so rewarding to see first hand the impact we can have on a family. I'm grateful for the opportunity to make a difference and give back.

TINA SIMMONS  
ATLANTIC GENERAL HOSPITAL