



CHM

NEWSLETTER

August 2023



THE IMPACT OF ISOLATION

The dictionary defines homebound as being unable to leave the house due to advanced age, injury, or medical condition. The Medicare definition adds that leaving home takes considerable and taxing effort, and requires assistance. For those seeking assistance from Chesapeake Housing Mission (CHM), being homebound means being stuck at home, often for months at a time.

Steps to their homes are frequently unstable, rotten, and lack handrails. Wheelchair ramps are non-existent. It is simply not safe to leave the home to obtain needed medical or other services, go to church, or visit a dear friend. This forced isolation impacts both the physical and mental wellbeing of the person. Isolation is associated with elevated risks for heart conditions, stroke, and the

worsening of chronic conditions. It leads to loneliness, anxiety, feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, and depression.

Something as simple as creating a safe entry and exit from the home can make a world of difference in a homebound individual's life. CHM, in conjunction with TidalHealth, recently completed a three-year study to measure the impact of its home repair services. The results showed an 87% reduction in falls and 38% reduction in hospital visits. 80% of those served reported improvements to connections to the community and an 85% improvement in daily outlook. CHM is grateful for the support of our donors who have enabled us to make such a positive impact on the lives of others.



What's in this issue:

- Message from Board Chair
- Giving Back To Our Community
- Statistics
- New Volunteer Team—Wor-Wic SOTA
- Client Testimonials
- Sponsors

Evelyn F. receives a wheelchair ramp and handrail, courtesy of the SU Football and CHM operations teams



As I reflect on the first six months of this year for Chesapeake Housing Mission (CHM), I am amazed at all our team and our volunteers have accomplished. As of this writing, we have completed 77 projects and engaged 830 volunteers in Christian mission. Our supporters, donors, partner agencies, volunteers and staff have made this possible, but the need for vital home repair in our community is still great. We continue to receive referrals daily and the demand for our services is at an all-time high. For most of the families we serve, lack of easy access in and out of their homes creates a high fall risk and a high rate of missed doctor visits. The feedback we receive from our clients and their families reinforces that our Christian values are being lived out each day by our staff and volunteers. So many of our clients rarely enjoy the beauty of the outdoors until CHM steps in and gives them their freedom and the hope of a better life back.

“We continue to receive referrals daily and the demand for our services is at an all-time high.”

Our mission, “To provide vital housing repair services through Christian mission to low-income families living in the Chesapeake Region as well as transformational life experiences to those we serve, volunteers offering their services, and entire communities,” continues to thrive in 2023. I hope it will be evident in the following pages that the stories about families whose lives were changed by community volunteers are just as important as the numbers.

Our theme for this year’s giving campaign is “Help to Give Hope”. Please consider putting together a volunteer team or helping to provide project materials through a financial donation, giving hope to someone in need. Thank you for being the hands and heart of Chesapeake Housing Mission and helping to make homes in our community warmer, safer, drier, and healthier!

Sincerely,

Maureen L. Williams

Maureen L. Williams
Board Chair

THANK YOU SPONSORS



JACK BURBAGE FOUNDATION



HUMPHREY'S FOUNDATION



United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore



THE WADDELL FOUNDATION





GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

The Atlantic General Hospital (AGH) Leadership team (*pictured above*) and the SonRise Church Celebrate Recovery ministry team collaborated on June 16th and 17th by demolishing and then reconstructing an existing wheelchair ramp for Rosalee M. and her family. Usually, when CHM performs a ramp project, it is because of the needs of one individual. When interviewing this family, it was quickly realized that the entire three-member household would benefit. Rosalee’s husband, Daniel, uses a walker, and her son, who’s mobility is also limited, is in a wheelchair. Rosalee herself uses a walker, and sometimes a scooter to get around.

Growing up, Rosalee was the daughter of two hardworking parents. Her father was a farmhand and her mother was a housekeeper. She is one of twenty-two siblings. As a young woman, she worked for the Campbell Soup company. This is where she learned how to save money and work towards owning her own home.

Rosalee is a devoted Christian, mother, foster mother, grandmother, and loving wife. She is strong in her faith and believes that the “Good Lord” sent CHM and the volunteer teams from AGH and SonRise Church to help.

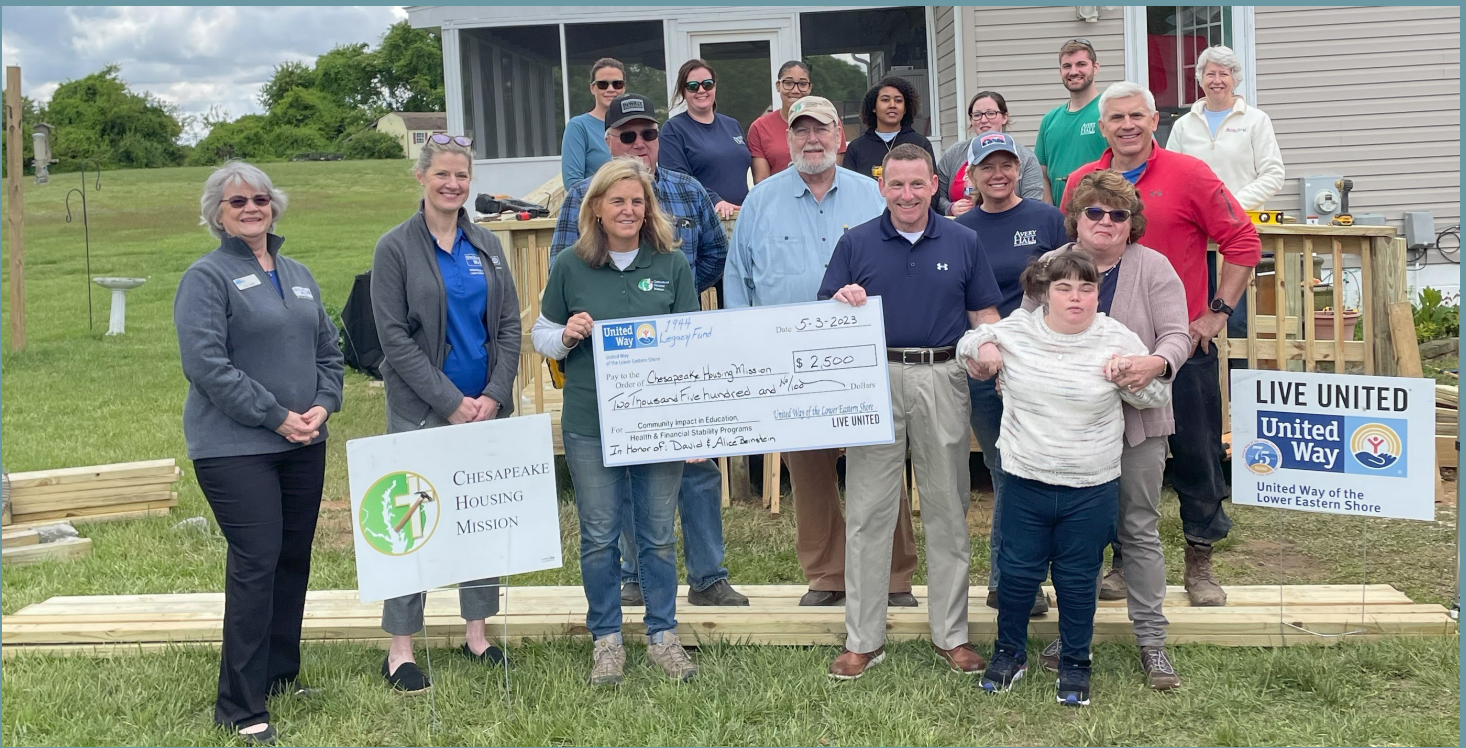
When CHM first met with Rosalee, she was asked if she could describe one thing that is unique about herself. “I have never in my 84 years of life had a T-bone steak,

and someday I would like to have one all grilled up,” she said. Not only did the SonRise Church team successfully complete their first project with CHM, but after learning about Rosalee’s remarks, they brought a grill and gave the Melendez family a delicious barbeque that included T-bone steaks!

“These vital home repairs ensure the safety of our community members and we are extremely grateful to be able to work alongside our skilled and passionate partners at Chesapeake Housing Mission,” says an AGH volunteer. “Thank you for giving us the opportunity to give back to the community!”



Rosalee M.—Pocomoke, MD



Pictured above: Jake, Judy, and Jesse Bernstein make a donation to CHM through The United Way. Thank you!

192

Critical home repair applications we have received so far this year.

38

Wheelchair ramps we have built so far this year. **A total of 621 have been built to date!**

1

Average number of days it takes a volunteer team to complete a wheelchair ramp.

308

Projects completed for Veterans or families of Veterans since we were founded in 2009.

864

Total number of projects we have completed to date, including the **77 projects we have completed so far this year!**

69%

Percentage of projects completed for clients 65 and older.



help to
give hope



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE THE HOMES OF OUR NEIGHBORS WARMER, SAFER, DRIER, AND HEALTHIER

Please help us reach our goal of \$15,000, enough to build six wheelchair ramps. Every donation counts!

SCAN HERE TO DONATE



OR, VISIT
WWW.CHEESAPEAKEHOUSINGMISSION.ORG

NEW VOLUNTEER TEAM



On June 3rd, CHM had the wonderful privilege to work with the Wor-Wic SOTA (Student Occupational Therapy Assistant) Club for the first time. The team indicated that they would go wherever they were needed most and were assigned to a project in Crisfield, MD for Milkey B., a retired seafood worker. For many of these young volunteers, it was their first time ever using a power tool! With the assistance and leadership of our operations team, it took just one day to complete a fifty-foot wheelchair ramp for Milkey. “They were a great group!” said Ed Hastings, Operations Foreman.

Each and every one of these students is going into the field of occupational therapy. Many stated that being able to give back to someone that could very well be their patient in the future, felt great! “It is exciting to see someone, like Milkey, be able to get out of her house safely, without the fear of falling or tripping,” says Chelsea of SOTA. “Knowing that her family cannot be with her 24/7, this gives her the freedom of being able to go to church or the store on her own. This simple ramp will also make it so she does not feel so alone and isolated from the outside world. It really opens our eyes to the need in making homes safer for our future patients.”



Milkey B. — Crisfield, MD



RENEWED FAITH



When she found out that CHM was willing to help after others had denied her requests, she was moved to tears.

Sonya O., a resident of Cambridge MD and retired from a career in caregiving, is a recent amputee. After the amputation and experiencing other related health concerns, Sonya was not sure where to turn for help in getting a wheelchair ramp. On a budget, and in the hopes of finding a secure way to access her home, she tried various avenues to acquire a ramp, but was unsuccessful.

On her way to visit a nurse that had cared for her during her rehabilitation, Sonya saw the construction of a ramp in progress and stopped to inquire. This is where she found out about Chesapeake Housing Mission. Nancy Mayonado, a CHM volunteer coordinator at the job site, gave Sonya a brochure and information on how to connect with one of our agency partners to fill out an application. When she found out that CHM was willing to help after others had denied her requests, she was moved to tears.

Due to the critical nature of Sonya's situation, CHM was able to expedite her application and schedule her project quickly. Thanks to the Perdue Farms Summer Intern volunteer team willing to build this ramp, Sonya has been infused with a renewed faith in God, knowing that she will be able to get in and out of her home safely. Both she and her husband, Felix, are so grateful for the help that they have been given.





St. Francis de Sales ASP team

“The wheelchair ramp that was built for me on April 22nd is such a blessing,” says Patricia T. of Wicomico County. “I really want to thank all the men and young teen boys and girls that gave up their Saturday to take on this project for me, someone they don’t even know. It shows there are really good and caring people still around in this world.”

“I have tried to be very independent so I can still live in my own home and not go into a nursing facility. It has been hard to really get around, but I push myself to keep going, trying to maintain my household. My health conditions have made mobility, especially navigating steps, difficult and dangerous. I have fallen and injured myself and, as such, have limited my time outside of

my home to just necessary medical appointments, as I have not felt safe navigating my steps and walkway.

“I’m very thankful for the program offering assistance through the Chesapeake Housing Mission where they are dedicated to helping people like me stay safe and secure so I can stay in my home.”

Patricia’s wheelchair ramp was constructed by the St. Francis de Sales ASP team. Amazingly, this is the 22nd ramp project performed by this team. A new door was also installed at Patricia’s residence by the CHM operations team.

“It shows there are really good and caring people still in this world”

Patricia T. - ramp recipient



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Chesapeake Housing Mission

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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.



"This wheelchair ramp has enabled me to stay independent and allows me to enter and exit my home with my wheelchair or walker," says William H. of Wicomico County. "Before getting this ramp, I would have to depend on someone to bring in my groceries up the steps. I could barely get up the steps myself, much less carry anything. The crew that pulled together to help me were so kind. They talked about current events and were willing to answer any questions I had, no matter how simple they were. God Bless these people. They are all angels in my book. Thank you!"

William's wheelchair ramp was constructed on April 4th by the Piedmont Airlines team.

The Piedmont team has scheduled a second project with CHM this fall.