

District Disaster Ministries Partners with Habitat for Humanity to Address Critical Repairs



District Disaster Ministry Volunteer Buddy Harrison examines the relocation of a wall to accommodate mobility needs at Lacey Springs.



Relocation of doorway at the Lacey Springs location
(Photos courtesy of Jerry Ruff)

The Shenandoah Update published a story about local congregations partnering with Renewing Homes in Greater Augusta County on July 19. Today, a similar partnership is providing local volunteers the opportunity to address critical home repairs in Rockingham County through a partnership with Central Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Last month, a Shenandoah District Brethren Disaster Ministry team completed repairs to a home near Lacey Springs in the first cooperative venture between Habitat and the District. The occupant of the home had applied for critical home repairs through Habitat. Because they discovered a greater need, the District responded by completely rebuilding his bathroom to improve access and maximize bathroom use.

According to Habitat, a critical repair improves the weatherproofing or water resistance of the home, the energy, efficiency, or security of the home, or the safety of the people living there, including providing mobility throughout the home and the built environment. There are other initial qualifications for applicants requesting the services. Learn more at www.centralvalleyhabitat.org/critical-home-repair.

These new forays into supporting housing needs locally benefit the persons receiving the services and allow volunteers to contribute time and talent on smaller projects closer to home. In effect, it promotes caring locally for our neighbors and friends.

District representatives Jerry Ruff and Don Driver have been working on options with Habitat for some time. The initial plan is for Habitat to receive the applications, vet them, and then discuss the scope of the work with District Disaster Ministries representatives. Five projects were reviewed last spring, with the District accepting one and Habitat handling the others. All five have been completed and new applications are ready to be considered. The District is prepared to act on new projects.

Typically, requests are for ramps to be installed outside of homes or for mobility to be improved within the home. However, requests may be more significant, ranging from bathroom rebuilding to insulating, weatherizing, or making structural repairs.

Habitat funding for the projects is capped at \$5,000. Additional funds may be provided at the discretion of the District Brethren Disaster Ministries coordinators. The annual auction in May also helps fund these local projects in addition to the week-long denominational project trips.

Persons or groups interested in assisting locally with critical housing needs may contact [Jerry Ruff](#) or [Galen Halterman](#).



Installation of an accessible shower
(Photos courtesy of Jerry Ruff)

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Brenda Sanford Diehl, MPA
Director of Communications
Shenandoah District Church of the Brethren
P.O. Box 67
Weyers Cave, VA 24486
540-234-8555
www.shencob.org