



## Happy New Year!

While it may seem strange to read “Happy New Year” mid-February, it has been a few months since our last 2018 newsletter. I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year holiday with those who mean the most to you.

### Some thoughts on 2018

Although a more brutal winter than anticipated kept us mostly inside, our team of volunteers at His Helping Hands kept busy fixing homes and preparing for Ready to Roll—which is right around the corner.

While I have the opportunity, let me share just a few of our 2018 highlights.

- Mary White always dreamed of owning a home. It became a reality through our Home Ownership Program.
- Fifty-four (54) families received some type of volunteer-provided maintenance or repair on their home through our Home Maintenance and Repair Program. They could not otherwise afford these repairs.
- Twenty-four (24) individuals no longer have to rely on the help of others to come and go from their home. Through the Ramps Access Made Possible Program, they have regained their independence. They no longer fear being dropped, or falling off a broken-down ramp.

And this is all possible because of YOU. Your passion, financial support, and time are the indispensable ingredients to the help we can provide. I am blessed to do God’s work with each of you.

### Stay connected with His Helping Hands

- We plan to move our quarterly newsletter to a digital format sent via email in the near future. This will allow us to redirect the cost of printing and mailing a newsletter back to our core mission. *Help us by filling out the short form on the back of this newsletter.*
- Our new website will launch in March. You can find us at [www.hishelpinghandsinc.org](http://www.hishelpinghandsinc.org)

### Calling all volunteers for 2019 Ready to Roll

Ready to Roll is *only* possible with the help of volunteers. We need YOU for the prebuild event on May 18 and our Ready to Roll day of installation on June 22.

- *If you can join us, please email me at [redeemed797@yahoo.com](mailto:redeemed797@yahoo.com) or fill out the form on the back portion of this newsletter noting your interest in Ready to Roll.*

### Help spread the word

If you haven’t already done so, be sure to like His Helping Hands on Facebook. Also, if you know anyone who would be interested in our ministry, please encourage them to (a) find us on Facebook, and (b) visit our website at [www.hishelpinghandsinc.org](http://www.hishelpinghandsinc.org). Thanks for your partnership!

Jeff

# ask

## **Q. What difference does a ramp make in the life of an individual with disabilities?**

**A.** It is life changing! A new ramp provides independence. An individual no longer needs to ask, rely on, or wait for someone if she/he wants to leave their home: they can now come and go when they desire. A new ramp offers relief—they can remain in their home and don't have to worry about how they can come up with the means to afford a new, safe ramp. Each ramp provided by His Helping Hands is truly a gift. A gift that we could not give without the support of our donors.

Here are three additional facts you might not know. (1) It costs His Helping Hands approximately \$1,000 in material costs to build a new ramp. (2) The market value of the ramp we build is between \$3,500-\$4,500 depending on the ramp. (3) It costs our ramp recipients nothing.

## **Q. What stands out as you reflect on 2018?**

**A.** It is hard for me to choose but Ready to Roll was one for the books.

The cooperation and camaraderie from a large group of volunteers at the prebuild event made converting 10 tons of lumber into components to build 15 ramps seem easy. It is also no easy task to install 15 ramps in 15 different locations in one day. I'm humbled by the experienced contractors who gave their time to lead teams and amazed by the number of volunteers who spent their day with us. We couldn't do it without such wonderful people!

Here's something else: we were beyond blessed with donations for Ready to Roll. Two storage units were donated by **East Peoria Business Center**—one to house the prebuild event and another to store the ramp components until we installed them. **LS Building Products** provided all of the lumber at cost and even unloaded and staged it for production. **ADA Total Access** donated use of their equipment. **Advocates for Access** provided lunch for our volunteers at both the prebuild and install. And last but not least, the countless sponsors and individuals who provided financial support, directly benefiting 15 individuals with a new ramp, and enhancing the quality of their life within a day.

One other highlight I can't help but mention is the gratitude and appreciation shown by Mary White throughout the entire home ownership process of 505 Pasadena. Every time I talked to her she was near tears. It was obvious how much that house meant to her. It is not every day that you make someone's dreams come true.

## **Q: What are your goals for the organization in 2019?**

**A:** I set annual goals by program. In 2019, the goal for our **Home Ownership Program** is simple: find a house! If you or someone you know is looking to donate a home, please get in touch with me. The goal for the **Ramp Access Made Possible Program** is to build and install a total of 25 ramps, with 15 of them being part of Ready to Roll. The goal for the **Home Maintenance and Repair Program** is to increase the number of completed jobs to 75 per year.

## What Home Maintenance and Repair recipients are saying

### Della Shelton, Bartonville

Della didn't like to look at her shower let alone use it. Her husband had installed a shower surround over 30 years ago and it was showing it's age. Her daughter had bought her a pretty shower curtain to hang and disguise what was behind it. Not only was it a cosmetic eye sore but it also was becoming a safety hazard. The surround was peeling and buckling allowing moisture to get behind it and cause mold. Della had been dealing with this condition for a couple years.

One day Della's sister recommended contacting His Helping Hands. Della was not optimistic but decided to give it a chance. She went in, filled out an application, and to her surprise, qualified to have her shower repaired.

His Helping Hands installed a new tub surround. Della said, "It was such a relief to have it fixed." She would not have been able to afford to have it replaced on her own. Della is very grateful for the support from His Helping Hands. She said, "I was touched to know that people care enough about others and are willing to help those in need."

The Home Maintenance and Repair Program would not be possible without the support of you, our friends and donors. We have more individuals like Della who need our services and the need is growing. Please consider making a gift today using the form on the back portion of this newsletter. Help us meet a basic need that would otherwise go unmet.



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## Sponsors Needed: 7th Annual Ready to Roll

The 7th annual Ready to Roll event is only a few months away (June)! His Helping Hands is looking for sponsors to underwrite the direct material cost of wheelchair access ramps for individuals with physical disabilities in the tri-county area.

Each ramp is specific to an individual's need and is cut, assembled, and installed by volunteers. The average cost of each ramp is \$1,000 but the true market value is greater than \$3,500.

Our goal is to once again build and install a minimum 15 ramps at Ready to Roll 2019. Ramp sponsorships are \$1,000 each. Sponsors are recognized with signage, PSA, newsletter, website, and social media exposure. We need confirmed sponsors by April 1.

If you are interested in sponsoring a ramp or know of an individual or business that may be interested, please contact Jeff at [redeemed797@yahoo.com](mailto:redeemed797@yahoo.com) or (309) 256-1246.

# HOW CAN I HELP?

His Helping Hands is always looking for individuals to partner with our ministry. Simply indicate your interest below and mail to His Helping Hands, 2527 W. Rohmann Ave., West Peoria, IL 61604.

*Thank you!*

## VOLUNTEER

- ☐ Work on a local project
- ☐ Join a regular repair team
- ☐ Help organize a project
- ☐ Provide meals/refreshments for volunteers.
- ☐ Provide transportation

## GIVE

- ☐ Make a one time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Make an ongoing pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months
- ☐ Donate tools or building materials
- ☐ Sponsor a ramp (\$1,000)

## PRAY

- ☐ Become a prayer partner and be notified of how I can pray for the ministry and those it serves.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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