



## Reflect, Give Thanks and Look Ahead

This time of year always prompts me to reflect and give thanks. I am humbled by all that the Lord has entrusted me with and amazed at how His work through this organization has touched so many.

I wanted to share a few highlights from 2018.

- Forty-one home maintenance and repair jobs completed so far.
- Fifteen wheelchair ramps installed during the annual Ready to Roll event.
- Nine ramps were installed in addition to Ready to Roll.
- In July, we volunteered project leadership during South Side Mission's Hope Builders effort.
- We provided volunteers for the Peoria Jaycees Das Bier Run in October.
- Later in October, we closed on the home at 505 Pasadena.

These highlights would not be possible without you. I am blessed to do God's work with each of you and I'm grateful for your time, dedication, and financial support.

With 2019 right around the corner, I also wanted to provide a quick update on what's ahead for His Helping Hands. By 2025, our vision is for eligible people with financial need in four additional counties of Illinois (Fulton, Knox, Macon, and McLean) to have full access to all programs and services offered by His Helping Hands. Our first affiliate will be planted in McLean County and we will begin that endeavor in 2019.

This vision can only become a reality with your ongoing partnership. I look forward to continuing this journey together and am anxious to see what God has in store for us in 2019 and the years that follow.

### Don't forget a few changes ahead.

- Our quarterly newsletter which is currently mailed will move to a digital format sent via email and made available on our website starting in 2019. The new format will allow us to redirect the cost associated with printing and mailing a newsletter back to our core mission.
  - *Please take a few minutes to fill out the form on the back portion of this newsletter to continue receiving news and updates.*
- A new website is in the process of being developed and will launch before the end of the year.

### Save the date for 2019 Ready to Roll

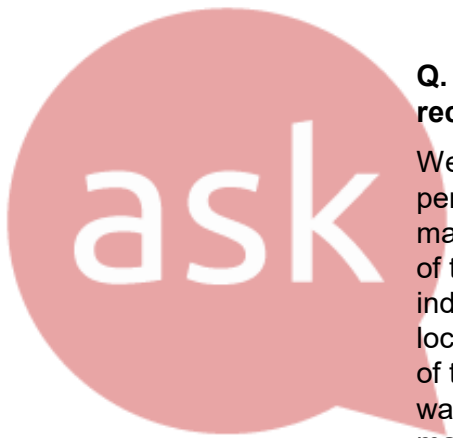
The prebuild will take place on May 18 and installation will be on June 22.

### Help spread the word.

If you haven't already, be sure to like His Helping Hands on Facebook. If you know anyone who would be interested in the mission of His Helping Hands, please encourage them to find us on Facebook and visit our website at [www.hishelpinghandsinc.com](http://www.hishelpinghandsinc.com) where they can join our mailing list to learn more about the organization and how to get involved.

Thanks for your partnership!

Jeff



**Q. How does His Helping Hands receive client requests?**

We receive an average of 5-10 calls per day for ramps and home maintenance and repair projects. Most of these requests come from individuals but some also come from local social service agencies. Because of this high volume of need, we have a waiting list for both ramps and home maintenance and repairs.

**Q. What type of volunteers is the organization looking for?**

We are always in need of volunteers. Currently we are looking for plumbers, electricians, and carpenters. We're also in need of administrative volunteers.

## Making Home Ownership a Reality

The Home Ownership Program partners with families who are interested in owning their first home, specifically those who have a demonstrated need for housing and have the financial ability to own a home, but need help qualifying for a traditional mortgage.

Since 2013, three homes have been renovated and sold through the Home Ownership Program. Two of the homes were donated to the organization and the most recent home was purchased at less than 20 percent of appraised value. In addition, three homes had been donated to the organization and were sold to provide funds for our Home Ownership Program.

When selecting houses for the Home Ownership Program we look for houses that are at a very low cost, structurally sound, fit within our budget guidelines, and are in a location that will appeal to applicants. We then bring the house before the board for consideration.

Each renovation is made possible with the help of skilled volunteers and local businesses who gift or sell us materials at cost and donate their services. Fritch Heating and Air Conditioning is the most recent example. Fritch sold us an HVAC system at cost and donated their labor. The time and talents donated by volunteers as well as the partnerships with local businesses allow us to meet the needs of more people.

In April 2017, His Helping Hands acquired a house at 505 Pasadena in Peoria. Many renovations were needed in order for the house to be ready to sell. A partial list of the renovations is included below. We closed on the house at 505 Pasadena at the end of October 2018.

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|--|---|
| • Stripping and refinishing floors   | • Back entry door replaced                  |
| • Chimney removal  | • Upgraded plumbing, electrical, and HVAC   |
| • Wall removal   | • Basement cleaned, painted, rebuilt steps  |
| • Kitchen renovation including new cabinets, countertops, and backsplash                 | • Insulated attic                           |
| • Bath renovation including new tile flooring, tub, vanity, lights, and medicine cabinet | • Set up laundry area with new utility sink |
| • Painting walls, ceilings, and trim   | • Installed two new garage walk doors       |
| • Window repairs   | • Built patio                               |
| • Storm doors replaced   | • Rebuilt retaining wall                    |
|  | • Landscaped                                |
|  | • Repaired driveway                         |
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# What Our Newest Homeowner is Saying

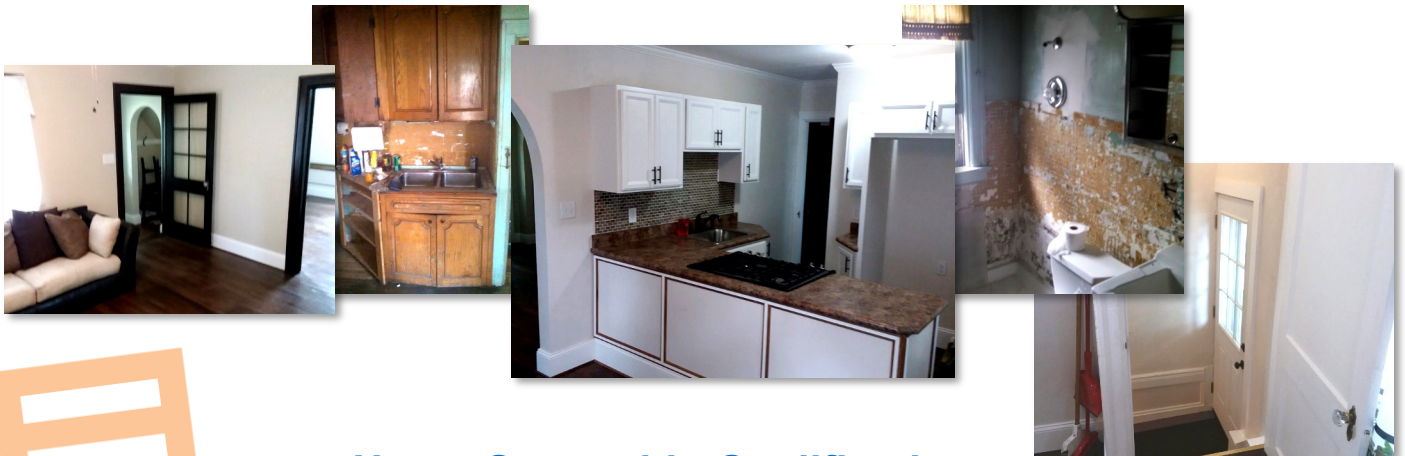
## Mary White, Peoria

It is amazing how God brings us houses and clients. It was that way with our most recent homeowner, Mary White.

Mary lived with her 80 year old mother next door to the house we purchased at 505 Pasadena for our Home Ownership Program. She had been observing the work we were doing on the house and inquired for more information. Her desire was to live close to her mother and she was looking to rent a home a few doors down before this opportunity arose. Mary said, "I never thought in a million years I would own my own home."

Mary completed over 125 hours of sweat equity including painting, cleaning, sanding trim, and much more. This was done in the evenings and weekends after working a 40 hour work week. Mary shared, "It was a lot of hard work, but when you know in the end it's going to be your home it is worth it."

Mary shared how the entire process was such a blessing and how God opened so many doors she had never thought were possible. She expressed her thankfulness not just for the home, but all that she learned along the way—home maintenance and upkeep, managing finances, and more. "I want to help the organization with anything I am capable of because of my experience," Mary said.



## Home Ownership Qualification

Interested parties must meet several criteria to qualify for the Home Ownership Program:

- Pay up to \$1,500 in closing costs
- Minimum monthly income of \$1,500 (based on family size of four or less)
- Six months of continuous employment at current job
- Commit to attending Home Ownership Program preparation classes
- Contribute sweat equity down payment by helping remodel the home
- Be free of major felony convictions
- Be free of any bankruptcy actions over the past two years
- Have no more than two non-medical collections in the past two years

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



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