

# projecthome

February 25, 2010

David Stark  
Stark Company Realtors  
2980 Arapaho Drive  
Madison, WI 53719



Dear Dave:

I want to thank you and all of your fine agents and staff who generously support your agency's charitable giving and participate in the company golf outings. I want you to know just how incredibly important the Stark Company Realtors golf event gift has been.

Your gift gave Project Home the ability to create an Emergency Home Repair Fund and implement our Hammer Corps volunteer work force idea that we had been discussing for a while. We've had a small group of skilled volunteers who wanted to help our low-income customers on a continued basis, but we couldn't afford the materials required. With the funds from Stark, we have purchased supplies to make critical health and safety repairs for people who cannot wait till Hammer with a Heart, or are not eligible for our other programs. We will likely help about ten homeowners and their families with this gift. We have already served seven families.

Here are a few of the people we have served with the Emergency Home Repair Fund:

Margaret's son called Project Home about the leaking hot water heater in her mobile home. She couldn't afford our Minor Home Repair program, so she was referred to this new program. We sent Bill Johnson, one of our volunteer plumbers, to check it out. She needed a special order small mobile home heater that was only 16" wide. I found and ordered one and Bill installed it the next week. Margaret is very relieved to get that repaired, and very grateful.

Elizabeth called Minor Home Repair about electrical problems that caused her ceiling lights to stop working. This job was too small for our Minor Home Repair program. One of our volunteer electricians, Steve, fixed the problem. It was an inexpensive materials repair but we wouldn't have had the flexibility to address this need without a program built around this Emergency Repair Fund and volunteer help.

The Thao family applied for Hammer with a Heart because of a basement utility sink with broken faucets. A steady stream of hot water filled up the sink and then poured down the floor drain. Project Home staff determined that this project couldn't wait for Hammer with a Heart, so we dispatched volunteer Derek Frank, a professional plumber, who installed a new utility sink and faucets. This repair is saving the family a lot of water and money on their utility bills.

1966 South Stoughton Road  
Madison, Wisconsin 53716  
608.246.3737  
608.246.3722 Fax  
outreach@projecthomewi.org  
www.projecthomewi.org



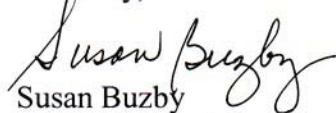
Jim, a disabled man living with his mom, Arlene, was a previous Hammer with a Heart recipient. He recently contacted us about two large oak trees that were dropping branches and damaging their roof. Arlene got an estimate last year but it was much more than they could afford. In November, we sent one of our Hammer with a Heart volunteers, Boley Tree Care, who gave us an inexpensive estimate on the work. Due to the need and expense, the Emergency Repair Fund will help by splitting the costs with Arlene for the tree removal. Boley will be taking down the trees as soon as the weather improves.

All of these customers contacted us not knowing whether or not we could provide any assistance. They were all under a great deal of distress and were so relieved that we could help them free of charge in most cases.

The other three Emergency Fund projects were replacing bad hot water heaters. Knowing that this has been a big need every year, I purchased four hot water heaters when there was a great sale. This purchase allowed us to take on each request, use a less expensive product, save the time to purchase them one at a time, and the job was completed faster.

Thanks again for helping Project Home help so many people in need in our community.

Sincerely,

  
Susan Buzby  
Outreach Specialist

P.S. I have developed a cause marketing campaign with NBC 15 to promote our free Housing Center classes. You could receive our non-profit rate. Just wondered if you would be interested in being a sponsor. Or, if you wish to contribute to the Emergency Home Repair Fund again, please let me know.