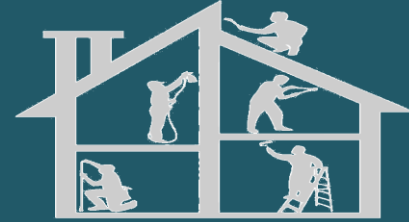


Vinton County Commissioners' Development Department

Success Stories



July 2019



Imagine if you will, it's two weeks before Christmas, the presents are under the tree and everyone is looking forward to the holiday season; all of a sudden you smell smoke and you quickly realize that your house is on fire. Everything you own: clothes, pictures, and furniture; everything is gone. This was a sad reality for a Vinton County family of five. Fortunately everyone made it out safely, but now the family had become instantly homeless.

They lived with friends and family that first winter, then moved into tents when spring came around. During this time they approached the Vinton County Commissioners' Development Department asking for assistance through the CHIP Program. Although the Housing Program Manager worked tirelessly to assist the family, they were at the end of the grant cycle which left a gap in funding that the family couldn't cover. A local young woman, known for her charitable acts in the community, was approached for assistance. When she heard a family was living in tents, with help from her parents she started a successful crowd funding campaign. This also got the attention of a local Behavioral Health Agency that approached their donors seeking funding as well.



Unfortunately, during this fund raising period, another winter had approached. Local volunteers constructed some make-shift shelters on the property and the family was able to move into those to get through the winter while a local sanitation company donated the use of portable bathroom facilities.



With the additional funding raised and the Vinton County Commissioners' Development Department receiving funding for the next round of CHIP Grant funds, new life was breathed into the project.

However, even with the use of the multiple funding sources they were still facing a shortfall. It was at that time the Housing Program Manager reached out to the Church of the Resurrection Catholic Church in New Albany, Ohio to see if they would be able to construct the large handicap ramp that would be required to get the family into their new home. They have a youth ministry program called Gospel Road and every June they travel to Vinton County to work on projects. They eagerly accepted and said that they were up to the challenge.



With the commitment of the Church of the Resurrection the final piece of the puzzle was assembled. The Vinton County Development Department rushed to get the project under contract and pursued a commitment to assure that the home was in place in time for the church's scheduled Gospel Road event.



The family stated that they are extremely grateful for everyone that worked together to make this nightmare end up as their dream home. One family member stated

that the first thing he was going to do was to take a hot shower, while another wanted a home cooked meal, the mother was quick to say, "no, the first thing we are going to do is to pray and thank God for blessing us with a beautiful new home and ask him to bless everyone that made this a dream come true".



The Family would like to thank:

- The Vinton County Commissioners' Development Department
- The State of Ohio Development Services Agency
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
- State of Ohio EPA WPCLF Program
- Integrated Services
- Lost and Found Faith Outreach operated by Norah Martin
- The McManis Family
- Church of the Resurrection Catholic Church Gospel Road Team
- Remy's Mobile Homes, Inc.
- M. Horton Construction, LLC.
- Buckeye Rural Electric Co-op
- A-Z Sanitation
- The Scioto Valley Christian Conference
- Jenny & Dave Nichols
- Ron Reynolds
- James Thompson

All of the organizations and families listed above were instrumental in making this project happen.