



She now found herself homeless, in need of assistance, and turned to family members for help. She also reached out to the Vinton County Emergency Management Agency to see if there was anything they could do. William Faight, VCEMA Director, put her in touch with the Vinton County Commissioners Development Department.



On April 9, 2020 an EF1 tornado was confirmed to have touched down around 12:33 AM about a mile and half from Wilkesville, Ohio. The National Weather Service estimated the tornado's highest wind speed was 90 miles per hour, and its path width was roughly 125 yards. Its path length was a mere quarter of a mile. A local woman, Faith Thacker, was asleep in her bed as the brief storm hit. In a matter of minutes, Ms. Thacker's home was knocked off its foundation as the concrete block piers busted through her bedroom floor next to her bed. In that brief incident Ms. Thacker realized that she was extremely fortunate that she had no injuries. However, her uninsured home did not survive the brutal storm. Ms. Thacker had been unable to secure insurance on her home in the past because of the age of the home.

After determining her eligibility, an assessment was conducted on her home. It was then determined that a replacement home was the only option.

The project moved forward and was bid out immediately.

Because the bids for the replacement home exceeded the maximum limit of assistance for the CDBG CHIP program, additional funding was provided by the USDA's Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant and the State of Ohio EPA's WPCLF.

Now that the funding was in place, the contract was awarded to a local contractor, C&B Contracting.



Ms. Thacker began decorating the home immediately and expressed her gratitude numerous times. It makes our jobs here at the Vinton County Commissioners Development Department very rewarding to witness the transformation from such destruction to a positive event in someone's life.



Utilizing the existing home site after the damaged mobile home was dismantled, a new custom framed home began to appear. Ms. Thacker was happy to see something positive coming from such a rare event.



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
- C&B Contracting

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