



# HOMELESS VETERANS UPDATE

Cherokee County Homeless Veterans Program

4th Edition

## Home Depot Grant Report

**Home Depot Community Grant—201600865**

**Team Depot Grant - \$1,800**

**CWO Joseph Tremblay**

### CHEROKEE COUNTY COMES OUT TO HELP CANCER STRICKEN VETERAN

#### Background:

On June 8th, 2016, the Home Depot Foundation announced that the Thomas M. Brady American Legion Post 45 was awarded a \$1,800 Team Depot grant for needed repairs to CWO (ret) Joseph Tremblay's USMC/US Army home in Canton, Georgia.

CWO Tremblay was initially referred to Jim Lindenmayer of American Legion Post 45 by a neighbor through the Cherokee County Senior Services located at 1001 Univeter Road in Canton. Once the referral came into us, we attempted to contact the retired veteran to determine how we could help him. However, after explaining the Home Depot repair program to this veteran he was skeptical that something this good was real.

CWO Tremblay, who served over 20 years total between the Marines and the Army, was diagnosed some years ago with cancer and as his health had deteriorated over the years, has not been able to perform the normal home upkeep that he had done years ago. Knowing that a veteran can use some assistance and getting him to accept assistance is a big issue for many veterans, and Joe was no exception.

It took multiple visits to Joe's home and calls over about two a two month time to get Joe to understand that there was a home repair program that could help to fix and maintain his home through veteran and community volunteers at little or no cost to him, recalled Jim Lindenmayer, Service Officer of American Legion Post 45 and Director of the Cherokee County Homeless Veteran Program which manages the Veteran Home Repair program.

Once we were able to get Joe to understand that this was not charity and that the program was real, we set out to mobilize both the veteran and non-veteran community to help with this project. Joe's health was an issue and so was his financial situation, so we recommended to Fred Brown, Home Depot Team Depot Captain, and Mike Struck, Store Manager of the Home Depot located in Canton that Joe's project was worthy of a Team Depot Grant. Working with Home Depot Pro-Desk manager Jason Finck, we immediately took to filling out the grant paperwork and after waiting several weeks we were lucky enough to be awarded this grant from the Home Depot Foundation.

(continued on next page)



## **CHEROKEE COUNTY COMES OUT TO HELP CANCER STRICKEN VETERAN (continued)**

In addition to the Home Depot Foundation Grant, Lindenmayer approached other members of the Cherokee County Consortium for additional assistance on this project. The Consortium, which the Veteran Home Repair program is part of also includes Habitat for Humanity North Central Georgia which is headed by Sabrina Kirkland, Cherokee County Volunteer Aging Council which is headed by Judy Davila, and the Cherokee County Community Block Development Grant (CBDG) team headed by Laura Calfee. This consortium was formed in 2015 and focuses on leveraging home repair resources for veterans or seniors who are financially challenged or disabled. Each member of the consortium brings special abilities or funding to the table which allows us to bring the maximum resources to bear on any project that meets established criteria.

In the case of CWO Tremblay, the Home Depot Team along with the Veteran Home Repair program and the VAC focused our resources and efforts on the exterior projects that had been identified. In this case the projects consisted of yard cleanup, designing and building a new wheelchair ramp, porch steps and railings, repairing the wooden privacy fence and repairing then re-installing the damaged flagpole. The Habitat for Humanity project team would focus their efforts on the interior of the house where they could bring to bear their expertise and funds for HVAC, electrical and internal construction efforts.

On the project start date, the Team Depot team brought with them several members of the Taylor Construction team, along with a donated Bobcat and Backhoe to help with the external cleanup and grading that was needed to complete the project. Teams were quickly created for the 30+ volunteers that showed up daily to attack the workload over the two days of the exterior project. The teams worked seamlessly from the start of the project day which was at 0900 hrs. and ended up right to about 1700hrs both days with a break for onsite lunch. On Friday, which was the last day of the project, a special flag raising ceremony was provided by the Woodstock Marine Corps League under the leadership of Commandant John Newport,.

Groups that participated in the project included members of Home Depot from various local stores under the direction of Fred Brown, Team Depot Captain, veterans from the following organizations, Marine Corps League Detachment 1311 Woodstock, American Legion Post 45 in Canton, and 316 in Woodstock, VFW post 5262 in Canton, Soleil Veterans Club in Canton, as well as JROTC members from Cherokee High School. In all a total of over 1,250 hours of volunteer manpower was provided for this project across all attendees.

*Editor Note - From the start of this project we knew that CWO Joseph Tremblay's cancer was getting more aggressive. Less than a month from this writing and five months after we finished this project, we were all saddened to learn of the passing of Joe. Until the end of the project, Joe still used to tell me that he could not believe that people who he did not know nor related to him would volunteer their time to come and do projects to his home that he could no longer perform.*

### **About Giving Back at The Home Depot**

Since the first The Home Depot store opened in 1979, giving back has been a core value for the Company and a passion for its associates. Today, The Home Depot, in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation, focuses its philanthropic efforts on improving the homes and lives of U.S. military Veterans and their families and aiding communities affected by natural disasters. Through Team Depot, the Company's associate-led volunteer force, thousands of associates dedicate their time and talents to these efforts in the communities where they live and work.

Since 2011, The Home Depot Foundation has invested more than \$85 million to provide safe housing to Veterans, and along with the help of Team Depot volunteers, has transformed more than 17,000 homes for Veterans.



## **Home Depot Community Grant—201601951**

**Team Depot Grant - \$2,900**

**SGT William Green**

### **TEAM DEPOT AND LOCAL VETERANS VOLUNTEERS BUILD RAMP FOR AGENT ORANGE STRICKEN VIETNAM VETERAN**

SGT William Green of Canton never thought that the effects of his tour of duty in Vietnam would ever cause him lasting health issues, but this Vietnam Army Veteran has spent many of his recent years fighting with symptoms and the ravages of Agent Orange. William grew up in Canton and has made this his lifetime home, however, over the last several years he has incurred increasing loss of mobility and other issues related to his deployment to Southeast Asia over 40 years ago.

Today, William is confined to portions of his home and has limited mobility, and with his new ramp his wife will find it easier to get her husband out of the house and into waiting transportation to take him to his treatments at the VA or his local doctor. For most of us, getting from the house to waiting transportation is a fairly simple task. For William Green making this task may take much of his strength and many minutes of frustration. Not having a good mobility solution like the needed ramp, William and his wife were left to trying to get him out of the back door and into the car that was waiting on the grass. Sounds simple until one day when the weather was bad and the ambulance that came to pick William up got stuck in the mud and a tow truck had to be called to get the ambulance back onto more solid footing.

With the need for better mobility and a longer term solution, American Legion Post 45 met with Fred Brown, the Team Depot Captain and Mike Struck, the Canton Home Depot Store Manager and discussed the potential use of a Home Depot Foundation Team Depot Grant as Post 45 was not yet in cycle for a Home Depot Foundation Community Impact Grant. Upon reviewing the need, a team of Home Depot employees from the Canton store Pro-desk and members of Legion Post 45 got together and completed the necessary grant paperwork for the project to be considered for funding.

Groups that participated in the project included members of Home Depot from various local stores under the direction of Fred Brown, Team Depot Captain, veterans from the following organizations, Soleil Veterans Club in Canton, Marine Corps League Detachment 1311 Woodstock, American Legion Post 45 in Canton, and 316 in Woodstock, and the VFW post 5262 in Canton. We are really lucky to have such great veterans who are willing to give up part of their day or week to work on projects like Williams. We are also grateful and thankful that we have a great partner and project funding partner in Home Depot and the Home Depot Foundation.

#### **About Giving Back at The Home Depot**

Since the first The Home Depot store opened in 1979, giving back has been a core value for the Company and a passion for its associates. Today, The Home Depot, in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation, focuses its philanthropic efforts on improving the homes and lives of U.S. military Veterans and their families and aiding communities affected by natural disasters. Through Team Depot, the Company's associate-led volunteer force, thousands of associates dedicate their time and talents to these efforts in the communities where they live and work.

Since 2011, The Home Depot Foundation has invested more than \$85 million to provide safe housing to Veterans, and along with the help of Team Depot volunteers, has transformed more than 17,000 homes for Veterans



# Giving a Hand Up—Programs that help our Vets

We are grateful to have the material support, and especially the team support, from the Cherokee County Home Depot stores and the Home Depot Foundation.

Through the efforts of people like Mike Struck Store Manager at the Canton store, Fred Brown, Team Depot Captain, Jason Finck, Pro-Desk Account team lead from the Canton store 145, and his team including Angel Quintana and Chris

Fitzgerald, we were able to develop a great team for these projects. They kept us on track with material selection and delivery. We could not have done it without their support.



**American Legion Post 45**  
**160 McClure Street**  
**Canton, GA 30114**

## Contact Us

Give us a call or send us an email for more information about the program.

**Canton Post 45**  
160 McClure Street  
Canton, Ga. 30114  
770-479-4405

Jim Lindenmayer  
Director Cherokee County  
Homeless Veterans Program  
JLindenmayer80@gmail.com

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE