

PROJECT

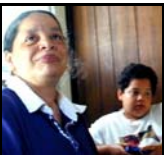
rake.

Random Acts Of Kindness Everywhere!

New London, PA -- February 12-14, 2005 -- Project: RAKE sent 64 high school students out on 15 different crews to Nottingham, Oxford, Lincoln University, West Grove, Kennett Square, Cochranville & Parkesburg to help senior citizens & low income families with repairs to their homes. Project: RAKE provides free labor for these repairs. Materials are provided through the donations of local businesses & individuals. The ministry's goal is to get teenagers involved in the needs of their community and spread Jesus' love through service. Thirty-one local homeowners were ministered to this weekend, through free home repairs.



Joseph Cosgriff is a 50 year old resident of Brandamore. Joe took leave from work to care for his wife who was diagnosed with cancer. Doctors were able to do little for her, and she died shortly there after. When Joe was ready to go back to work, he learned that his employer had filled his old position as a highly paid mechanic and was only willing to bring Joe back as a stock person at minimum wage. Not long after, his hands required immediate surgery for a crippling condition that stole his dexterity. Now, with a cracked & leaking bathtub, a crumbling porch, a car that won't stay fixed, and a \$5000 a year restaurant dishwasher's job, this widower finds little comfort in his antique radio collection as he scrapes to get by. Joe's lost everything, going from a highly skilled mechanic who provided for his family to a 2nd shift laborer who is lucky to pay his monthly bills. But God used six Project: RAKE teens with materials supplied by Oxford Feed & Lumber and Browns Trailer Supply to bring a glimmer of hope back into Joe's life and show him Christ's love. The team worked to remove the old bathtub & surround and install a brand new unit. They also demolished what remained of the old deck and build a more stable area for Joe to safely enter & exit his home. Joe even came out to help with the project, working alongside of the GZ teenagers. We visited with Joe again last week and learned that he's found a new motivation, strength & hope to begin tackling the smaller, more manageable repairs on his own. Pray that God reveal himself more clearly to Joe & that he continues to find support & encouragement.



Diane Archie is a 59 year old resident of Parkesburg. We contacted her several weeks ago in preparation for Project: RAKE and learned that neither her water pump nor her sewer lines were working properly. For the past several weeks, she had been emptying a "bucket" into a hole in the yard each night for her and her 12 year old grandson Keshon. Will Leff, Stephanie Bradley & a crew of six teens spent the weekend repairing her broken pipes, reconnecting her well pump, snaking her sewer lines and digging up the broken sections to make repairs. They also replaced a termite damaged ledger board that was supporting the rafters over Keshon's room. They finished the job by patching the drywall and getting a coat of paint on the ceiling. Diane called and left us a very touching voice mail message on Monday thanking the crew for all their hard work.



Marie Wilson, an 82 year old heart attack survivor, came home from the hospital on Monday night after a bout with pneumonia to a brand new bathroom. Her handicap shower seat had been allowing water to run out & rot the floor. Glenn Baughman and Bob Cochran led 4 students in ripping up the bathroom floor, laying new plywood, new linoleum & then installing a brand new vanity & sink



supplied by Lowe's of North Wilmington. Marie's daughter was so overcome with joy at the look of their beautiful new bathroom, she began shouting & crying. This crew also installed 3 new smoke detectors, replaced 3 exterior lights and leveled her front walkway.





Pauline & Wallace Oliphant are 80 year old residents of Lincoln University. Parkinson's, osteoporosis & arthritis have crippled Pauline and confined her to her living room recliner. Wallace was no longer strong enough to assist her up and down the front steps whenever it was necessary for her to leave the house for doctors appointments. They desperately needed a ramp. With a load of materials from Oxford Feed & Lumber, Ken Loux & six teens began digging post holes & laying out the 30 foot structure. The teens completed the ramp in under 15 hours.



Michelle Taylor lives in Parkesburg with her four children. Their caseworker ordered that improvements be made to the home immediately: improvements which Michelle did not possess the knowledge to do on her own nor could she afford to pay a contractor to complete. Over the course of the weekend, Ken & Patti Crossan led five teens, along with Michelle's 14 year old daughter in repairing doors, hanging 2 new doors, repairing a loose handrail, and completely remodeling the kitchen. Previous plumbing leaks had destroyed the family's base cabinets and countertops. Through the generosity of Home Depot in Parkesburg, Project: RAKE teens were able to replace the cabinetry, install new counter tops, a new sink, all new plumbing lines & lay a new luau floor covering over several cracks & holes. We'll return in May to address their roof.



Catherine Cabbage is a 74 year old resident of Avondale. She has done her best to maintain her home since the death of her husband, but some things were just beyond her. She had part of her lungs removed a few years ago which can make it difficult for her to catch her breath while doing even the simplest of tasks. Bob Henriksen, Dean Behm & four teens use materials donated by Pyle's Home & Supply to replace the gutters on the rear of her house & to construct a closet in the basement bedroom. The team also insulated & installed paneling on the bedroom walls & ceiling to help keep the heat in.

Project: RAKE was also able to send teams to the homes of 25 other families. Work included demolishing a shed, repairing a porch floor, replacing a bathroom floor, replacing a water damaged bedroom floor, painting several rooms for an 80 year old stroke survivor, adding handrails to a porch landing, replacing a pressure tank, installing handrails for an elderly couple recovering from surgery, repairing plumbing, replacing a broken storm door, hanging new closet doors, replacing leaky toilet guts, installing new light fixtures, replacing a hot water heater, and helping families in the community live warmer, dryer, safer, more comfortable lives.

The actual inception of this program grew out of one student's desire to take a summer mission experience she'd had through Ground Zero, into her own community. The program's name is based on a concept that Columbine victim, Rachel Scott, wrote about in a school paper a few weeks before she was tragically killed.



Rachel believed that if one person would perform an act of compassion, it would begin a chain reaction in others doing the same. Now, over three years later, 103 work crews consisting of 517 area teens working together with skilled adults, have made a tangible difference in this community, contributing over 10,000 hours of community service to help 80 families and touching an estimated 200 individual lives.

RAKE would like to say a special thank you to Oxford Feed & Lumber, Pyle's Home & Supply, Browns Trailers Supply, Home Depot of Parkesburg, Lowe's of North Wilmington, Habitat for Humanity Re-Store, SECCRA & the Sherwin-Williams company who, through their generous donations, helped make this Project: RAKE weekend a huge success. They'd also like to thank some of the organizations who refer clients including Oxford Neighborhood Services, Chester County Services, Community Volunteers in Medicine, the Chester County Health Dept., the Department of Aging and local senior centers. You truly are a blessing.