

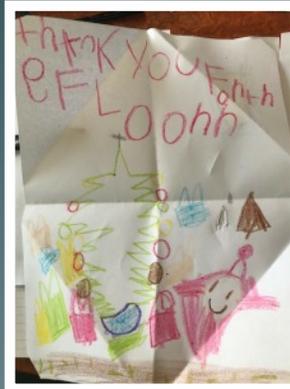
# RESTORING HOPE

by Rachel Metzger

Sara is carefully stacking pancakes onto plates while her five children sit around the kitchen table writing letters to Santa. The table is covered with crayons and paper and despite the liveliness of their morning routine, Sara somehow manages to convince some of the children to eat their breakfast. One of the boys, Jeremy, isn't interested in eating though, because he would rather discuss sailboats. Rosalind, the youngest, would rather talk about the Barbie Jeep that she wants for Christmas.

In every way, Sara and her kids are just like any family awaiting the holidays, but six months ago, circumstances were quite different. Sara wasn't sure that she was going to be able to keep her family together.

Julian, the second oldest of the children, was deathly ill with severe asthma that had him hospitalized in critical condition. As we shared in the Spring issue of our newsletter, Julian could not be released to go home unless Sara removed the carpeting from her house because it was the carpeting that triggered Julian's asthma attacks. "I really thought I was going to lose him," Sara said while she fought back tears. Sara's limited income prevented her from replacing the



carpet. After placing a call, Sara discovered that she qualified for Good Neighbors' services and in the early spring the carpet was replaced with hard wood flooring.

Since March, Julian has not experienced a significant asthma attack. As Sara recalls the events of last Spring, her eyes fill up with tears, "I don't know how else to say it, but Good Neighbors saved my family. I wouldn't have Julian if you had not replaced the floors." Then Sara began to smile, "And you know what else? My floor is beautiful too. I am proud of my house now. You gave me more than a floor, you lifted me up. You helped me but you made me feel good too."

As we come to the close of 2019, the staff and board members wish to express their deep gratitude for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon our ministry. Thanks to the ongoing support of generous donors like you, families such as Sara's are living in homes that are warmer, safer, drier and healthier. God continues to show Himself faithful. May the blessing of Christ be upon your family this season and all year round!

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



Dear Friends,

“No catching up these days”, says Cindy our Client Advocate. As one of our former clients Cindy abounds in compassion and optimism. Cindy goes out two days every week to visit and pray with each homeowner as she listens to each story. Back in the office Cindy mentions how “encouraged each homeowner is to know that someone cares enough to meet with and listen to them”. Good Neighbors is so much more than a home repair company, it is a ministry. Many low-income homeowners in Chester and New Castle County need critical repairs, and at times, it seems as if we will never catch up!

Mike qualified and was approved for a new roof a year ago and he is still on the waiting list. He’s frustrated and so am I. Mike is one of 60+ homeowners who we cannot assist until more funds become available. So as of right now, we can’t predict when the roof is going to be replaced. Our backlog is 60 critical repairs. Critical repairs are leaking roofs and broken windows, new water heaters, grab bars for shower stalls and wheelchair ramps. The average repair is \$2,500, which requires \$150,000 of new funding from generous folk who are willing to partner with us to Restore Hope.

You read Sara’s story in this newsletter. She is one of over 100 homeowners who we get to serve every year. The other 99 start with stories of stress and loss of hope. Then comes the thankfulness and joy of a warm and safe home. Each of you play a role in restoring hope, bringing good news and encouragement to a family in need.

Can you consider how you might be called to support this great need? Families like Sara’s have already benefited from critical home repairs yet others like Mike are still waiting.

**There are many ways that you can be a part of this ministry:**

- **Make a cash gift – enclose a check or credit card number or go online**
- **Sign up to be a monthly donor – this can be done through the enclosed envelope or online.**
- **Make a gift of appreciated stock – this is a very tax efficient way to give. Our DTC number is 0226 and our account number AAU030528. Transferring designated stocks is fast and easy.**

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please call me if I can assist you in making a difference!

Merry Christmas!

*Harold Nayla, Jr.*

Executive Director

## Your Monthly Giving at Work

Becoming a **monthly donor** means strong and timely funding that allows Good Neighbors to deliver **lasting impact to low income homeowners in our community** who are in need of critical home repairs.

**WARMER**

**\$250**  
per month

Replace a heater for an elderly homeowner

**HEALTHIER**

**\$100**  
per month

Install hardwood floors for someone with breathing issues

**DRIER**

**\$50**  
per month

Provide roof repairs for single mothers

**SAFER**

**\$25**  
per month

Provide grab bars for disabled homeowners

Visit [GoodNeighborHomeRepair.org](http://GoodNeighborHomeRepair.org) and click the ‘Give Monthly’ button. Choose the amount of your gift and your subsequent giving will happen automatically.