

# RESTORING HOPE

A PUBLICATION OF GOOD NEIGHBORS INC.

JULY 2020

## The Life-Changing Power of a Ramp

by Nina Taylor

The word home evokes images of comfort and safety. Our homes should feel like a refuge. But imagine when your home is not entirely safe for you, or it is a challenge just to enter your house. That is the situation Carrie found herself in until Good Neighbors Home Repair was able to help her by providing and installing a ramp.

Carrie is a 37-year-old woman with spina bifida. When she was born, doctors told her mother, Pamela, that Carrie would never talk or walk. Carrie has defied all expectations. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Carrie had been working as a receptionist for the daycare center at the Salvation Army. She also enjoyed volunteering her time with the kids there. Still, Carrie has lived a life that most people never would have dreamed for her.

Carrie had been using a walker to get around, but that became increasingly difficult over time. Eventually, using the walker to get into her house became impossible. Although the house had just four steps up to its entrance, they were quite steep. It reached a point where Carrie's leg would occasionally lock as she mounted the steps, and she would fall into the house. That's when Carrie started crawling up the steps to be able to safely get into her home. Even in good weather crawling up the steps isn't a great solution, but with rain or snow, it's absolutely terrible. Pamela knew Carrie needed a ramp, and she reached out to Habitat for Humanity who had built their home. Pamela's contact at Habitat connected her with Good Neighbors. In December Pamela spoke with Cindy Patton, and the approval process was completed in January.

Everything was going smoothly until the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the timeline. Good Neighbors had purchased several used ramps (at about half the cost of new ramps) from a supplier in New York, and the shipment was delayed due to the pandemic. This set back the installation of Carrie's ramp.

Fortunately, the ramps eventually made it out of New York and Carrie's ramp was installed in May. The ramp has restored safety to Carrie's home. Pamela reports that Carrie is very happy with it and said, "Mom, I like it." Carrie no longer has to worry about getting in and out of her house, and when the COVID-19 crisis has passed, Carrie will be able to return to her job at the Salvation Army. All of us at Good Neighbors are thankful for the generous support of foundations and individuals that enable us to repair homes and restore hope.





Dear GN friends,

In the last 90 days I have had to learn new vocabulary words: social distancing, comorbidity, COVID-19, pandemic, self-quarantine, and N95 masks. We live in interesting times!

Having to stay home for so long has reminded me of the importance of a home that is warm, safe, dry, and healthy. I'm sure I had taken these necessities for granted. Now, the mission of Good Neighbors seems even more clear.

Our many partners, old and new, have come alongside us in both prayer and financial support. Thank you; we are so encouraged. This foundational support has enabled us to keep up with critical and emergency repairs, like roofs and water heaters and septic systems, over these past 90 days.

Recently, the governors have opened us to more small-group gatherings so that we can resume our normal repair ministry. Moving forward, volunteers will be wearing personal protective equipment and practicing social distancing. In this newsletter you will see a new volunteer opportunity, **Family Days**, for small groups to participate in repairing homes on Thursdays and Saturdays in July and August.

If you're ready to get some fresh air, acquire new skills, and bless a neighbor, call us at 610-444-1860 or visit us at:

[GoodNeighborsHomeRepair.org/2020-family-days-registration](http://GoodNeighborsHomeRepair.org/2020-family-days-registration)

Thank you again for your generosity and friendship,

*Harold*

Looking for something to do  
with your family this summer?

We have just the thing!



**Good Neighbors'**  
**2020 Summer Family Days**

Thursdays & Saturdays

**July & August**

Learn more:

[GoodNeighborsHomeRepair.org/2020-family-days-registration](http://GoodNeighborsHomeRepair.org/2020-family-days-registration)

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**HEALTHIER HOMES**

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per month

Fund hardwood floors for someone suffering from chronic breathing issues.

Your monthly donation gives us a solid base from which we can respond to the needs of low-income homeowners.

**PLEASE DONATE TODAY**

[GoodNeighborsHomeRepair.org/ways-to-give](http://GoodNeighborsHomeRepair.org/ways-to-give)



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