

“I AM SO THANKFUL FOR ALL THE HELP”

Outline of Need: Elizabeth Graves, eighty nine years young, can certainly share interesting stories of life’s crossroads. Life has been good for her, while hard times have undoubtedly been no stranger either. Nevertheless, Ms. Graves refuses to allow the hard times cloud her spirited attitude, when she expresses, “People need to be thankful for what they have.” Her independence, slightly hampered by her failing eyesight, combined with her sense of humor, genuine appreciation for life, and amazing strong-will help her face life’s many trials.



How Rural Development Helped: One of her recent trials meant finding funds for renovating her bathroom. She needed a larger door, wide enough to accommodate a wheel chair, as well as grab bars, commode, tub, sink, floor and updated fixtures. Ms. Graves made a few phone calls which lead her to the USDA Rural Development. A USDA Rural Development representative met with Ms. Graves in her



home and assisted her in the application process for a grant. A grant eligible applicant must be elderly and unable to pay a 1% locked interest rate loan for essential repairs to their home. Today Ms. Graves’ home has a fresh new look in



the bathroom with a new tub/shower, grab bars, commode, sink, electric heater, fresh paint, new

flooring and a wider, wheel chair accessible door making the bathroom functional once more. She is in awe claiming, “I can’t see it, but I felt all around it, and I think it is wonderful.” Ms. Graves, relying on sponge baths far too long declares, “I have a nurse coming in today and it will be the first time I get to take a bath in it. The nurse is real excited about it too.” With a big smile she says, “I am real excited, but I don’t want to get too excited, I just might have a heart attack.”



The Results: Ms. Graves conveys a heart filled thank you with a big smile; so appreciative of all good things coming her way she expresses, “A lot of people don’t like to help you. Please tell everybody I am so thankful for all the help.” She is a fine lady,

overcoming obstacles with a sense of pride and honest-to-goodness gratitude for any help offered her along the way.