

REHAB OF HOME CREATES DOMINO EFFECT IN NEIGHBORHOOD

Outline of Need: *Robyn was born and raised in De Smet, South Dakota. She decided to venture out into the world and left the area from 1982- 1996. She then returned to her home town, met and fell in love with Donald Flickinger who was originally from Ohio. In 199 they bought their present home from Robyn's sister. The home was not in the best of shape and needed a lot of TLC. They learned about our program while doing some research for an organization they belong to for disabled people. This organization is always looking for new ways to help people in their community and get involved. Over a year ago, they contacted Dana Whitehouse of the Brookings ICAP office and asked her to come speak to their group. That's when the paperwork started and then the Flickingers talked with Diane M. Byer, Rural Development Specialist in the Watertown Office.*

How Rural Development Helped: *They learned about our program while doing some research for an organization they belong to for disabled people. This organization is always looking for new ways to help people in their community and get involved. Over a year ago, they contacted Dana Whitehouse of the Brookings ICAP office and asked her to come speak to their group. That's when the paperwork started and then the Flickingers talked with Diane M. Byer, Rural Development Specialist in the Watertown Office.*

Since Robyn and Donald are both disabled, they needed all the volunteer help they could find to tackle the numerous projects ahead of them. Steve Elkins, a very good friend of the Flickingers, offered many hours to help accomplish these tasks as well as Robyn's sister and boyfriend and several high school students. Various construction crews in the DeSmet area loaned the Flickingers tools and equipment to help with these projects. The electrical lines were buried under ground and upgraded to 200 amp. The sagging back roof was re-sloped and the front porch was totally redone and extended. New shingles, siding and windows were installed. The sheet rock was replaced in the living room and new carpet laid on the main floor level. There were serious mold issues in the basement which was affecting Robyn's health and that has now been corrected. The entire foundation has also been sealed.

The Results:

Robyn and Donald started a domino effect with their remodeling project in their neighborhood because now seven other homeowners on their street are in the process of upgrading their homes too!

Robyn stated, "Rural Development has a very good program." Along with Rural Development funds and the help of ICAP, these enhancements were made possible. Robyn enjoys making jewelry using pheasant feathers and also makes corn husk dolls for the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society in De Smet. She also does painting projects for friends. Thanks to Rural Development and ICAP, Robyn and Donald now have a safer and healthier environment in which to live.



At left are Robyn and Donald Flickinger standing in front of their house.

Submitted by: Watertown Office –
November 2007