



NEWS RELEASE

Home Builders Care of Fargo-Moorhead Foundation

1802 32nd Ave. S. • Fargo, ND 58103 • (701) 232-5846 • Fax: (701) 280-1108

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Home Builders Association Remodelers Council builds wheelchair accessibility ramp for Moorhead man

Moorhead, Minn. (Aug. 11, 2010) – The Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead’s Remodelers Council built a wheelchair accessibility ramp Aug. 10 for Moorhead resident Robert Garza, 1700 3rd Ave. S., #226, in Bennett Park Mobile Home Court.

The HBA of F-M and Remodelers Council coordinated the project with Freedom Resource Group, an advocacy organization designed to assist people with disabilities in achieving and maintaining independent lifestyles. Garza has suffered from kidney disease all his life and, in the last few years, was diagnosed with peripheral artery disease (P.A.D.), a circulatory problem in which narrowed arteries reduce blood flow to the limbs.

Garza has had one leg amputated and now has problems with the other leg resulting from P.A.D. Currently in Fargo’s V.A. Hospital, Garza is wheelchair-bound and lives with his longtime girlfriend, Dorene Neeland. Neeland hopes that he will be out of the hospital in a month but, in the meantime, welcomes him home for weekend visits and special occasions.

“This ramp will help a lot because now I am carrying that heavy wheelchair from the car, up the stairs and into the house,” she says. “Then I am helping him climb up and down the stairs on his visits home, too.”

Garza adds, “I have a hard time getting into the house now, and sometimes even have to crawl. I will be in a wheelchair for the rest of my life, so this ramp will make a huge difference for us.”

Remodelers Council volunteers who helped with the project include: John Gunkelman and Steve Grandberg, Dakota Construction of Fargo, Inc.; Terry Lipp, Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery; Stephanie Lindemann, Heritage Homes; John Vastag, Laney’s, Inc.; Spencer Cook and Tom Schlenvogt, Red River Electric, Inc.; Steve Breyer, Stenerson Lumber; and Perry Eidem, United Products Corporation. Curt Erickson, Marvin Windows & Doors, sponsored lunch for the volunteers.

The City of Moorhead Neighborhood Services approved a Community Development Block Grant for reimbursement funds to cover material costs. The grant was applied for by Home Builders Care Foundation.

The Remodelers Council is a committee of the HBA of F-M that deals with issues affecting the remodeling segment of the building industry. Council members continually lend their efforts to these types of charitable projects building two to three ramps a year depending on funding and emergency needs.

The HBA of F-M is a non-profit trade association of over 800 members that has been in existence since 1956. Its mission is to provide quality services, benefits and education to members and the community while representing the collective interests of the home building industry.

Home Builders Care Foundation is the HBA of F-M’s charity dedicated to supporting skill training, education and projects related to the housing industry.

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For answers to any questions regarding this release, or to set up an interview with Robert Garza, Dorene Neeland or Remodelers Council leadership, please call Krista Mund at (701) 232-5846.

Home Builders Care Foundation is a charitable organization created by the Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead. The Foundation seeks to be a visible and positive influence in the community by supporting skill training, education and projects related to the housing industry.