



NEWS RELEASE

Home Builders Care of Fargo-Moorhead Foundation

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For Immediate Release

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

MOORHEAD, MINN. - The Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead's Remodelers Council built a wheelchair accessibility ramp for Moorhead resident Connie Mere in early February. Volunteers from the Council spent the day at Mere's home constructing the ramp, which has allowed her to venture outside for the first time in over two months.

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. Mere was in an accident 33 years ago that resulted in the loss of both her legs from the knee down.

"This project was a great way to start off 2010. Connie was so enthusiastic about having the ramp that it made every moment of work more meaningful. This type of project is what the council is here for. We want to give back to our community," says Remodelers Council Chairperson Tom Schlenvogt, Red River Electric, Inc.

Volunteers who helped with the project, along with Schlenvogt, included: Bruce Gerlitz and Steve Lomsdal, Accent Contracting; Ron Barstad, Barstad Construction, Inc.; Dave Anderson, Dave Anderson Construction; John Vastag, Laney's, Inc.; Dave Velaski, Minnkota Windows, Inc.; Rick Duval, Rick Duval Construction, Inc.; Steve Breyer, Stenerson Lumber; and Perry Eidem, United Products Corporation.

"I really appreciate what they did because it's beautiful!" Mere says. "And, it's definitely better than my old one, that's for sure!"

Other contributors to the project included: Curt Erickson, Marvin Windows & Doors, who provided doughnuts and coffee for the volunteers; Moorhead RentAll which allowed the Council to use equipment needed to grind down a tree stump in the path of the ramp; and City of Moorhead Neighborhood Services which approved a grant for reimbursement funds to cover the material costs initially paid by the Remodelers Council.

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.

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For answers to any questions regarding this release, or to set up an interview with Connie Mere 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.