

Go William!

Just mention the name William Reed in Owingsville KY and anyone can tell you who he is and where he lives. If William has met you he will also know your name. William is a main force in Bath County. He is a part of everything that is done in the community and has been named 'Citizen of the Year' more than once. William attends every sports function home and away. He has also helped the cheerleading sponsor for several years. "Go Cats!" is William's favorite phrase. There is not a person in Bath County who would not do anything for William.

Outline of Need: William's mother passed away when William was young. This left just Henry, William's father, and William to look after each other. William was very close to his father and upon Henry's death; William was left in a state of confusion...also penniless. Henry had the only income for the two of them. Even though William was handicapped he had never drawn a disability check.

The community came together to help William. They held a community dinner and the monies raised were used to meet William's immediate needs, to reconstruct his existing bathroom and purchase a washer and dryer. Two guardians were appointed to help William in everyday tasks such as paying bills, buying groceries, applying for disability, etc.



William and his dog, before repairs were made.

William's guardians were looking for other ways to help William when they found *Gateway Community Action* and their various programs. The front porch on William's house was ready to fall in; his heating system was a single stove in the living room which did not disburse heat to the sleeping areas of the house; the house had no insulation. Windows leaked air making it extremely hard to heat in the winter months.

How Rural Development Helped: Robert Murphy of Gateway Community Action Agency made a site visit and went to work. William's participation in the Weatherization Program enabled him to also participate in the Gateway "Weatherization Plus Program" funded by USDA Rural Development's Housing Preservation Grant. Through both of these programs and matching funds and labor provided by the members of William's Church, many repairs were completed on William's house. Weather-stripping, door bottoms, and thresholds were installed on the doors to seal out the cold air. Plastic window kits were installed over the windows, a new shower head and light bulbs were installed to

save energy. The old refrigerator in the kitchen would not work properly so it was replaced with a new one.

There was no insulation in the home so insulation was installed in the ceiling, walls and floor. Two gas heaters and shut-off valves were installed. The vent pipe was replaced with double wall pipe and ventilation was upgraded to standards. Smoke and CO detectors were also installed for safety. William's front porch was replaced; repairs made to the porch roof; water damage to the front of his house was repaired and a new gas water heater was installed. William's church paid for additional materials and labor to demolish and rebuild steps leading up to street level. Some twenty fellow church members and neighbors donated their time, labor and vehicles to demolish and remove the old porch and steps and other debris.



William enjoying his new front porch with his guardian and former pastor, Chuck Lees.

The Results: With the assistance and coordination of Gateway Community Action and USDA Rural Development's Housing Preservation Grant Program, William truly has a safe energy efficient home to enjoy for many years to come.

