

THE COUNTDOWN...THREE MONTHS TO BECOME HOMEOWNERS

Outline of Need: Stan and Connie Mathson called the small rural community of Morrill “home” for the past 15 years. Their world shifted when their landlord decided to retire in the house they were renting. The Mathsons’ had three months to vacate the property and to find different housing. They didn’t know where they would live. Connie has Multiple Sclerosis and is dependant on a motorized scooter. With the limited housing market in Morrill, finding a single level house that could accommodate a scooter seemed impossible.

How Rural Development Helped: The impossible became possible thanks to USDA Rural Development and various partners. The Mathsons’ purchased their home through a Rural Development home loan of \$75,600. Assistive Technology and Cerebral Palsy Foundation funds provided for improvements to accommodate Connie’s accessibility needs. Additional major partners included Panhandle Community Services with weatherization and Housing Preservation Grant programs; and Western Nebraska Housing Opportunities who provided additional funding for repairs and closing costs. Stan, an accomplished contractor, supplied the labor for many of the projects – not only saving on costs – but giving him “ownership” in his home.

The Results: The Mathsons’ were elated when they found a house with the right “bones”. Even if it needed work – the layout and the size of the house was what they were hoping to find.

“Working with the various agencies seemed like a lengthy and somewhat confusing process at times; however, there was always someone available to answer our questions and to assist us. It was worth it all as we never expected to live in a house as nice as our home.” --Connie Mathson, Homeowner

