

HAVE FAITH

Mary Lou Rice was born in Mechanicsburg, Ohio, 66 years ago. When she was 14 her family moved from Ohio to Kentucky because her dad wanted to come home.

After 43 years of marriage Lou's husband Morris passed away. Her married life was a happy time and she misses her late husband terribly. Morris and Lou have two children, a son and a daughter. Her son lives in Paducah and her daughter lives at Meally. Her daughter has a son and a daughter which are Lou's only grandchildren.



In 2006, Lou suffered a heart attack and had to quit work, after 33 years in the fast food industry. She would love to be able to work again so she could be around people. She loves talking, has a good sense of humor, and loves to laugh. She is a member of a local church and she loves working around her yard and with flowers. She and her neighbors are like family. Since Lou doesn't drive, Lorie, her neighbor, transports her and watches out for Lou as if she were her own mother.

Outline of Need: Lou has lived in her home for 38 years and there are a lot of memories connected to the house. When she realized the floors were literally falling out beneath her, she took action by asking Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) for help.

How Rural Development Helped: CAP crew leader Mike Powers looked at the house and decided the repair could be done but the cost was more than CAP's minor repair guidelines allow. Although CAP labor is free, to purchase materials needed in the project, Lou was referred to USDA Rural Development in Paintsville. Within days, Lou had the funds needed to repair her home. Not only has Rural Development provided the money but Lou has received part of the funds as a grant, which was needed to make it affordable. CAP and Rural Development have worked together many times with CAP providing the labor and Rural Development providing the funds for materials. Applicants have to be eligible for both CAP and Rural Development programs, income guidelines and homeownership requirements are the same.



The Results: In response to her need for home repairs, CAP crews will tear down the house where Lou lives with the exception of the laundry room (the only salvageable room in the house) and will rebuild a living room, kitchen/dining room, a bathroom and two bedrooms. Lou is excited about the repairs and can't wait until she can return home. Partnerships like CAP and Rural Development allow agencies to combine resources thereby making a bigger impact than when working alone.

2008