

Success Stories: What a Difference Home Improvements Can Make

Outline of Need:

Duane Sutton is an elderly, disabled homeowner who resides in Rising City, Nebraska. Duane's home was in need of essential repairs. The roof that leaked needed immediate attention before extensive interior damage resulted. The single pane windows, which were a constant source of energy loss, needed replacement. Missing boards and rotted wood on the porch were a major safety hazard. A new kitchen counter top was needed with improved accessibility for Duane's disability as he uses a walker. Lastly, the home had not been painted in many years and the paint had since fallen off much of the house, leaving the wood bare and exposed to the elements.

How Rural Development Helped:

Due to Duane's age and income, a second mortgage to pay for the home repairs was out of the question. Duane, who is on a limited income, would not qualify for a traditional bank loan for home improvements. Duane Sutton learned about the USDA Rural Development grant program through the LIFE (Lincoln Information for the Elderly) office. Application papers were completed and grant approval followed.

The Results:

Through an USDA Rural Development Rural Housing Repair Grant, Duane's house received a wonderful new face-lift. The porch and roof, which were safety hazards, were replaced. Energy efficient windows and a new counter top were installed. Duane's home is now safe and energy efficient and looks wonderful. With USDA Rural Development's Grant, Duane can feel safe and sound in his newly improved surroundings.

"I appreciate the way this project was handled by USDA Rural Development. It paid to wait for an experienced carpenter. I am well satisfied with the windows, roof and front porch and painting of the house exterior," said Duane.

(September 2001)



Before....

- ⌘ Leaky roof-interior damage
- ⌘ Single pane windows-energy loss
- ⌘ Deteriorating porch-unsafe
- ⌘ Kitchen counter top-not fully accessible
- ⌘ Paint on house peeling off-exposed to weather elements



After....

- ⌘ New roof
- ⌘ New porch
- ⌘ New exterior paint
- ⌘ New energy efficient windows
- ⌘ New fully accessible countertop