

Independence – A Repair Affair Success Story



Independence. That is what Wilbor Lewis craves the most. On April 4th, 2009 that is exactly what Morehead-Rowan County Repair Affair volunteers hoped to achieve when they showed up to work at Wilbor's home.

You see, Wilbor has been in a wheelchair all of his life as a result of cerebral palsy. Having lived with his parents most of his life; he now lives alone in the home he shared with them before their deaths. Although his brother and sister-in-law are only a short distance away and check on him often; Wilbor is able to live independently and travel to doctor's appointments using the local transit system.

One of the main struggles of Wilbur's day is cooking for himself. With a regular kitchen range equipped with front knobs, it is still a challenge to see what he is cooking from his wheelchair. This poses not only a fire hazard, but is painful for him due to issues with his shoulders. That is where Repair Affair came in. Not only did they replace his range, they gave his living room, hallway and bedroom a fresh new coat of paint. Some very overgrown shrubs out front were removed and replaced with new landscaping.



In order to make his cooking situation more accessible, volunteers removed his current kitchen range and built a frame for a drop-in cook top. This allowed for the unit to be placed at 30 inches, which is much handier for Wilbor. He will use his "birthday stash" to purchase a toaster oven, which is more than adequate for his baking needs.

"I never imagined anyone would take notice and actually fix this problem", said Wilbor. "I can't tell you how much this means. I can't wait to see my rose bushes blooming. Thank you so much."



Wilbor will now enjoy being able to cook for himself and looks forward to preparing meals for his extended family. All in all, this is a win-win situation. A win for Wilbur in that he can now cook nutritious meals for himself; and a win for the volunteers who can walk away knowing they have made a huge difference in one man's life. **If you would like to participate in the 2010 Repair Affair, contact Frontier Housing 606.784.2131 x 241 or go to www.frontierhousing.org.**