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Local Veteran Gets Needed Home Repairs

Brevard, NC- In January 2023, Transylvania Habitat for Humanity launched a Critical Home Repair Program to aid qualified seniors, veterans, persons with disabilities, and low-income families and individuals who are struggling to maintain their home. The repair program is funded through local donations and grants, with Pisgah Health Foundation and Lake Toxaway Charities reallocating funds awarded to STEP WNC to help start the program. The repair work is done through volunteer labor at the direction of Habitat's Director of Construction Services, Mike Krauter.

This month, Habitat has provided accessibility improvements at the home of Brevard veteran Columbus "Buddy" Hutchins. The Habitat Construction team and volunteers were happy to accommodate Hutchins with a bathroom upfit as well as the installation of a handicap ramp, both critical accessibility improvements to provide a safer home environment. "Funds for Buddy were also raised by The American Legion through a super bowl fundraiser", stated Habitat Family Services Manager Jenni Kerr.

In addition to the repairs Transylvania Habitat made, the Owens Corning Roof Deployment Project selected the Hutchins home for a new roof, the first in Transylvania County. Since the inception of this nationwide program in 2016, more than 400 military members have received new roofs. One of Owens Corning's platinum contractors, Roman's Roofing in Cashiers, provided the labor to complete the job. "A roof can be one of the most critical repairs on a home," noted Home Repair Program Manager Cathy Wood. "We are honored to be a part of the program, to show gratitude to the veterans who served our country."

Transylvania Habitat is also partnering with St. Philip's Episcopal Church's Towel Ministry to provide wheelchair ramps at multiple homes throughout Transylvania County. Critical home repairs may

include hot water heaters, flooring, roof, or deck repairs as well as accessibility and other necessities to make a home safe.

Churches, businesses, and individuals interested in volunteering or sponsoring a home repair project may call 828-862-5116 for more information.

Critical Home Repair applications are available at the Habitat ReStore and the Housing Ministry Office at 692 Ecusta Road.



Left to right: Roman's Roofing Roman Placko, Owens Corning Roof Deployment Program Brayden Parks, veteran "Buddy" Hutchins, Transylvania Habitat Home Repair Program Manager Cathy Wood.