

May 16, 2018
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Grant Ramps Up Access, Safety and Peace of Mind for Sangamon County Seniors in Need

King's Daughters Organization Fund at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln Awards Grant to Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County's Wheelchair Ramp Program

After Mary fell, she couldn't move as easily as she used to. The stairs in and out of her home were now difficult and dangerous for her to navigate. Another fall would be disastrous. She worried about moving and having to leave the security of her home and the neighbors she loved. Thanks to a 2018 grant award from the King's Daughters Organization Fund at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln to Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County's Wheelchair Ramp Program, low-income seniors like Mary have another option.

The King's Daughters Organization Fund at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln has awarded Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County (HFHSC) \$15,000 for its home accessibility program, which installs wheelchair ramps for qualifying senior homeowners.

"Instead of being forced to move, a ramp allows low-income homeowners to safely live at home," said Colleen Stone, HFHSC Executive Director. "We're grateful for the King's Daughters Organization and its generous support of Habitat's mission of creating and sustaining simple, decent, affordable housing for all people in need through our wheelchair ramp program."

Habitat volunteers build on average two to three ramps each month, weather permitting. More than 30 ramps have been completed to date to help individuals and families stay in their homes.

Applications for the wheelchair ramp program are now being accepted. To qualify, applicants must be low income, live in and own the home, have homeowner's insurance, and be in need of a wheelchair/handicap ramp. The program is sponsored by King's Daughters Organization for individuals 55 and older. The application and income guidelines are available at <http://www.habitatsangamon.com/wheelchairramps> or can be picked up, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Habitat office, 2744 South Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

"There's a real sense of joy for the homeowner and Habitat volunteers when a ramp is completed," said Tom Hutchison, AmeriCorps member and ramp program coordinator. "It's great to partner with the King's Daughters Organization to help seniors in need stay safely in their homes."

Habitat for Humanity is currently recruiting volunteers for this and future Habitat projects in Sangamon County. For more information or to join the efforts to eliminate poverty housing, visit <http://www.habitatsangamon.com> or call 217.523.2710.

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