

UM ARMY PARTNERS WITH THE CITY OF BRYAN TO HELP LOW INCOME HOMEOWNERS IN BRYAN'S OLDER NEIGHBORHOODS

September 12, 2013

BRYAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT PROVIDES CLIENT REFERRALS

During the week of July 21st-28th, 2013, 149 students and adults from the Woodlands United Methodist Church U.M. Army dedicated themselves to their ministry to assist those in need with housing improvements by doing minor repairs, yard cleanups, painting, and installation of porches and wheelchair ramps for 30 households in the community. 28 of those activities were done in Bryan, with 15 of those cases referred to the UM Army by the City of Bryan Community Development Department.



Handicap Ramp installed by UM Army, 1415 High St.

Previously, The City of Bryan Community Development Services Department screened these applicants to determine that the households were low income, and had provided grants for limited minor repair assistance to the majority of them. These repairs were leveraged by the volunteer work of the UM Army which helped to provide the homeowners with the opportunity to have safer, more sustainable, and accessible homes. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was used to assist with previous minor rehabilitation for

these households, and referral coordination to the UM Army was performed by Vicki Mack-Carr, City of Bryan Community Development Services Housing Rehabilitation Specialist.



Exterior paint, UM Army, 1416 George

One elderly recipient of CDBG minor rehabilitation funding of a handicap-accessible bathroom and exterior cleanup and repairs from the UM Army group took the time to write a thank-you to the department, "I have bad leg trouble and could not get my legs over the tub. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for my new bathroom, and for the people who came to make the outside of my home look so much better."

The UM Army provides a summer workforce of about 3,200 volunteers in thirty-six locations throughout Texas. The City of Bryan Community Development Services Department has funded 38 minor rehabilitations, four major rehabilitation/reconstructions, 18 down payment assistance for homebuyers, and 2 voluntary demolitions in the current program year to date. If you know of a low-income household in need of minor rehabilitation (repair) assistance, contact Vicki Mack-Carr, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist at (979) 209-5183 or vcarr@bryantx.gov. More information and applications for the City of Bryan Minor Repair (Rehabilitation) Program is available: http://www.bryantx.gov/departments/?name=home_repair