

Salt Lake Urban County

43+ years of experience administering HUD dollars

Mission Statement

We aim to strengthen families and neighborhoods by helping fund organizations that provide essential programs and services to individuals and areas of the county that need them most.

HOME Housing Program: Salt Lake Valley Habitat for Humanity

Brief Description of the Project:

Our partnership using HOME funds has provided a significant, positive impact on substandard housing in Salt Lake County, which focuses on issues relating to the health and safety of our citizens by utilizing proven practices, which Salt Lake Valley Habitat for Humanity did not have to reinvent.

HOME & CDBG Success Story: Jane's Story

Jane Spencer is a divorced mother, a domestic abuse survivor and a disabled veteran. She proudly served our country in the USAF from 1982-1986. During Jane's service she was repeatedly assaulted physically, sexually, and emotionally. This experience along with a violent domestic life has resulted in lifelong struggles for her. She has been diagnosed with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), major depression and anxiety. Jane is also the primary caretaker for her teen son who suffers from Asperger's syndrome. She is eager to regain balance and stability in her life for both her and her son.

Selflessly, Jane initially contacted Habitat for Humanity out of concern for her fellow female veterans. Jane was hesitant about receiving help for herself and felt that the others needed it more. From a healthy home perspective, Jane was in dire need of assistance. She lacked a working furnace and air conditioning. The pipes were leaking which threatened the introduction of mold and most importantly, the front door would not adequately lock. The inability to feel safe in her home was affecting her health and her ability to adequately care for her son.

Ultimately, now that the repairs are complete she and her son are at peace in their home and they no longer live in fear. Each person who worked with Jane to create a healthy living environment has benefitted from witnessing her strength and courage. It was an incredible honor to be able to provide assistance to someone who sacrificed so much to protect our country.

Leveraged Funds:

This project was completed by using the "braiding" concept. Salt Lake Valley Habitat for Humanity worked directly with Salt Lake County GHHI and Assist using HOME and CDBG funds. Assist provided a new furnace. SLVHFH and SL County repaired and installed the following items; flooring throughout home, attic insulation, central air unit, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, new exterior door, storm door, tripping hazard on front stoop, security light, interior handrail, drywall patch, exhaust fan in bathroom, relocate vent in bath, new faucet and plumbing in basement, upstairs bathroom ceiling, replace cabinet hinges, wall sconce on exterior deck, kitchen countertop. Jane's home had reached a point that the deferred maintenance was a safety and health hazard.

Please feel free to contact: Karen Wiley, Community Development Manager, PO Box 144575, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4575, 385-468-4870

During the process of repairs each of our contractors worked directly with Jane to ensure her comfort and safety. At one point during the process Jane considered taking her life from stress. She wisely chose to move forward and contacted SLVHFH the next day to express this moment. Via text message she wrote that she was sitting by herself in the middle of her living room smiling and taking in all of the improvements. Her gratitude is such an incredible reminder to all of us that the work we are doing is so important. It can and does change lives. Jane is so happy with the work that has been done that she is making her own improvements. She is organizing her home, painting a room at a time and simply enjoying her home. Jane and her family have touched our hearts and given us the opportunity to express our gratitude for her military service. She has also given us the opportunity to connect with and assist additional veterans. We would like to thank her for allowing us to come into her home and make the necessary repairs. Her trust in us is vital and we are proud to say that everyone involved in her project is grateful for the experience.

Federal funding is significantly leveraged with private donations and represents less than 10% of the capital raised in our housing program. Volunteers also invest in this mission providing an average of 900 volunteer hours per home.

Contact Information:

Ed Blake, CEO
801-263-0136