

Volunteer teams meet to help neighbor clean up her home

By JENNIFER SUMMER | Posted: Tuesday, July 29, 2008 12:00 am

Armed with trash bags, rakes and a lawn mower, volunteers helped a neighbor clean the area around her home July 26 after another neighbor put out a call for help.

Gary Lindley organized a group of volunteers to help with repairs, clean and mow the yard and recycle items that were found hidden in the thigh-deep grass.

"I first met my neighbor, Lynn, in 1982 when we first moved to Kingwood. I have not talked with her much during the past 27 years but I know we could help her make improvements to her home and improve her quality of life," Lindley said.

Lynn, who has suffered from heart ailments for more than eight years, lives alone and has not had air conditioning for more than five years.

An air conditioning technician visited the house July 25 and made a few repairs to ensure the unit would work later on in the week.

Besides cleaning the yard, several volunteers with Handyman Matters used Styrofoam to cover up holes on the exterior of the house and sprayed the outside of the home to kill insects and weeds and prevent further growth of mildew.

"The goal of all of this is to help Lynn and also point out to others in the community that if I am able to put all of this together, they can too. They can help others in our own community who are in need," Lindley said.

Rick Alspaugh with Alspaugh's Ace Hardware met with Lindley and donated a truck to pick up and recycle all of the items that were found in and around the back yard which included old grills, metal rods and even a bowling ball.

"Lynn was OK with us cleaning out the yard and recycling the items we found. We assured her if we threw something away that she needed, we would buy her a new one," Lindley explained.

The improvements and repairs that needed to be made at the home were broken into several different phases. Phase two and three would include replacing the siding, painting and other repairs that need to be made.

"I did not realize how much help she needed until I got over here. It has been a lot of hard work but after reading about Lynn needing help in the July 16 article in The Observer, I wanted to volunteer," Sally Valle, who volunteered with her husband, Raul, said.

While the volunteers were cleaning up her house, Lynn was treated to a cup of coffee and was surprised when she returned home to see the progress of the teams.

Lynn has been spending time with a neighbor, helping her make repairs at her home, but now the tables have turned.

"God is going to get me on the right side. If you see a need you can meet, do it and it will help make the world a better place," she said.

There are still a few tasks left in phase one which include replacing the garage door and getting the air conditioning working. The list of repairs has gotten shorter but Lindley is preparing to complete as much as he can to help Lynn.

"I am very pleased about the outcome and we have really helped Lynn," he said. "We have so many great people in this community that are willing to spend a couple of hours helping others; it is amazing."

For information

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