

Ramp Build WIC Week

NAWIC Southwest Chapter #366



Introduction

- ▶ Southwest Chapter #366 partnered with the Council of the Churches to construct a wheelchair accessible ramp for a woman who has a debilitating disease confining her to a wheelchair. Richard Virnig, director of Connections Handyman Service, an affiliate of Council of the Churches coordinated our efforts with a local General Contractor. It took us 2 Saturdays to complete the project from the beginning to the end. We had 5 members and 1 guest help the 1st Saturday and 2 members finish up the following Saturday. We met JW, the General Contractor, at the house and came up with a plan on how we were going to install the ramp.



NAWIC Southwest Chapter #366
starting the morning.

Step 1

- ▶ We tore down some rails at an existing porch to begin the project.
- ▶ We leveled the corner posts before attaching the frame together for the platform area.



Charlyce taking a saw and sawing the posts



April taking out the side deck



Cece unscrewing the side of the deck

Step 2

- ▶ While a few ladies were working on the platform the rest of us started playing in the dirt. (two forty-year old trees had us playing in the dirt longer than planned).
- ▶ We needed to dig holes for more corner posts and tilled the ground to remove about 2 to 3 inches of dirt where the ramp was going to slope down to meet the sidewalk.



Constructing the ramp



The team struggles cutting out the roots that are the size of basketballs



Laying out the ramp that is connected to the deck

Step 3

- ▶ After getting the corner posts and ramp frame installed we were able to install the treated 1 x 4 wood flooring that we had cut earlier in the day while 2 ladies installed the concrete pavers that would connect the ramp to the sidewalk.
- ▶ At the end of the day we had finished everything on the ramp except for the rails. That task would come the following Saturday.



Digging holes as deep as 12”



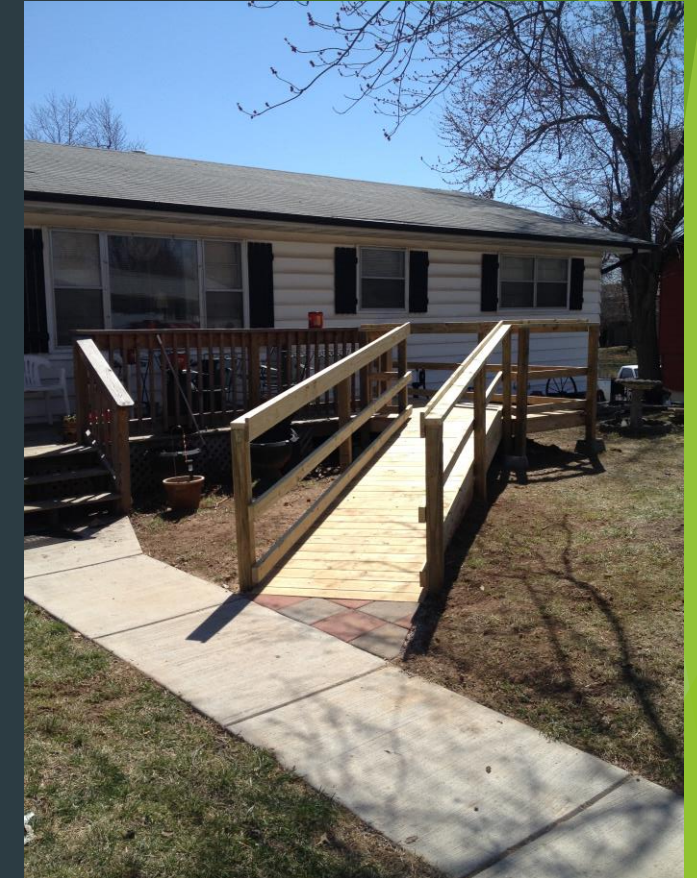
Screwing in 1 x 4's to the Ramp



Screwing in 1 x 4's to the deck

Final Step

- ▶ The following Saturday, the two workers worked diligently on the ramp.
- ▶ They trimmed down the posts to the perfect height.
- ▶ Finishing off with screwing 2 x 4's to the posts as the railing.
- ▶ The ladies had a blast doing this project and worked so hard to make sure the job was done.



Sanding the Final Finish for the Ramp

How did We Decide on the Project

- ▶ We really wanted to include a hand's on experience during WIC week. While working the NAWIC Booth at the HBA Home show, Richard Virnig stopped by the booth and introduced himself. Timing was perfect because April had been working the booth at that time. Richard explained what he does, which was perfect, because we were in the planning stages for WIC week. The hand's on building opportunity was a perfect option for us. It was even more desirable because we would be giving back to the community, specifically someone in desperate need.



Who did this Project Benefit?

- ▶ A woman named Donna, and the rest of her family. They will no longer have to struggle to assist Donna in and out of the home.



Donna, NAWIC Southwest Chapter #366,
Richard, and JW

Results of The Ramp Build

- ▶ The results of this build are many. While the chapter members gained construction knowledge, correct use of tools, and we got to have fun together... I think the real benefit comes from the feeling of satisfaction we have gained knowing WE, NAWIC Members, provided an opportunity for this woman to remain in her home as long as possible. With the ramp, she will no longer have to navigate stairs, making it easier for her and her family to take her to appointments and get out and about. Before the ramp, the struggle to leave the house was so great, they limited this to the once a week dialysis apt.
- ▶ I am very proud of our Chapter for partnering with the Council of the Churches in building a wheelchair accessible ramp for an older lady. It was a pleasure to work with my NAWIC sisters and to see what we can do as a team was very exciting. I cannot wait to volunteer with them again.



Contact Information

- ▶ April Planck
 - ▶ Telephone: 417-576-9009
 - ▶ Email: aplanck@simplexgrinnell.com

