



April 2, 2025

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Subject: Proposal for Funding Support for Home Repairs for Older Adults and Veterans in DeKalb County

Dear Commissioner Spears,

Habitat DeKalb has been serving the community since 2011 with home repairs. The program began as "A Brush with Kindness," which focused on exterior maintenance and landscaping for older adults and veterans. Still, during this time, we identified a significant need for critical home repairs, and our program evolved into a critical home repair program. Many of these individuals live in homes that require urgent repairs to ensure their safety and well-being. Unfortunately, due to limited funding, we cannot meet the growing demand for our services. Some individuals have been on our waitlist for years, highlighting the critical need for additional support.

We have over 700 families on our waitlist for home repairs. The distribution of these individuals varies across different districts within DeKalb County. While some districts have larger waitlists, it is crucial to recognize the need for home repairs, a county-wide issue requiring comprehensive support.

District 1: 19 -- (3 are Vets)	~ \$ 285,000
District 2: 10 -- (2 are vets)	~ \$ 150,000
District 3: 318 -- (15 are vets)	~ \$4, 770,000
District 4: 116 -- (6 are vets)	~ \$1,740,000
District 5: 136 -- (6 are vets)	~ \$2,040,000

These numbers overlap with District 1-5

Sup Dist 6: 137 -- (9 are vets)
Sup Dist 7: 293 -- (14 are vets)

While we have not yet vetted or determined if all these individuals qualify for our services, the number of requests demonstrates a significant need within our community. We can serve approximately 35 – 40 families a year at current funding levels—a drop in the bucket compared to the need. This overwhelming demand highlights the urgent necessity for additional funding and support to ensure that the older adults and veterans in DeKalb County can age in place in a safe, dry, and warm environment.

We seek support to help us bridge the funding gap and continue providing these critical services. On average, each home repair costs between \$15,000 and \$20,000. This amount covers

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essential repairs such as roofs, HVAC, plumbing, and other maintenance that address safety, structural integrity, and weatherproofing, ensuring the residents remain safe, dry, and warm. Our current funding sources include grants, donations, and partnerships with local businesses and community organizations. Your funding will complement these existing sources, allowing us to expand our reach and impact.

With the support of every Commissioner, we will be able to:

- Reduce the waiting list for home repairs.
- Improve the living conditions of older adults and veterans.
- Enhance the overall safety and well-being of our community members.

We kindly request that you consider funding our Aging in Place home repair program. Your contribution will make a significant difference in the lives of many older adults and veterans, allowing them to live with dignity and security.

In addition to financial support, we invite you and your staff to participate in volunteer opportunities with our home repair program. Volunteering can provide a hands-on way to contribute and witness the work, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and explore ways in which we can collaborate to support our community. You can reach me at ssteele@dekalbhabitat.org or via my cell phone at 770-309-1626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sharon Steele".

Sharon Steele
Executive Director