

Maintaining Independence: Staying in My Own Home

As a single elderly and disabled homeowner, Larry had struggled physically and financially with the necessary maintenance and upkeep of his home — one that he has owned for the past 28 years. Unfortunately, Larry suffered a debilitating stroke in 2017 and had to have accessibility work done on his home before he could even function within it again. A couple of Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area's (ESC) Community partners, The Independent Living Center and Hearts and Hammers, jumped right in and helped. They built a new wheelchair ramp and made accessibility modifications to his bathroom. They also referred him to ESC's Home Repair Department.

Larry said, "A lot of people have helped me out since I had my stroke, but I still felt like my house was running down the neighborhood." Larry added that his siding was coming apart, his windows and doors were in very poor condition, the roof leaks and he needed a new water heater, just to name a few things. Larry decided that he would contact ESC and find out about possibly getting some additional help for his home.

Much to Larry's satisfaction, he was approved for ESC's Home Repair Opportunity Program (HeRO), which is funded by Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC). Through this program, ESC's contractors replaced his exterior doors and windows, replaced a portion of his roof, installed new aluminum soffit, fascia and guttering, and they also installed new vinyl siding. They also made some much-needed interior repairs, replaced his water heater, updated his electrical system and replaced his furnace.



Larry said, "I was very pleased with all of the work that was done to my home. Everyone was very friendly and nice to work with as well." Larry feels like the biggest benefit of the program is that he has very little to worry about as far as upkeep and maintenance to his home and that he feels much safer with the added security of the steel doors that we installed.

Larry said, "This has made my life easier. I can't thank you enough."

Thank you to all of our partners, The Independent Living Center, Hearts and Hammers and MHDC, for helping us help Larry!



Before



After