

New Hampshire

Housing • Single Family Home Repair Loan & Grant

Water Runs Through It: A Home Legacy Built on Love

In 2010, Donna Ash moved to Littleton, NH to provide in-home care for her elderly father—a noble gesture that good children make to honor their parents when advancing age makes independent living untenable. After caring for him until he passed away in 2017 at 93 years old, Donna was left with the house he had built in 1975, set atop a little hill on the east side of town.

Unfortunately, there hadn't been much work done on the home since then, and Donna had been keeping a long mental list of needed upgrades. Though her father had replaced the sewer line before Donna came to live with him, the water main had aged beyond repair. Also, the front deck was rotting away, creating safety hazards that put her in jeopardy every day as she came and went.

Through Tri-County Community Action (serving Coos, Carroll and Grafton counties), Donna was put in touch with Janice Le Blanc, Housing Specialist with USDA Rural Development. With Janice's expert help, Donna easily completed an application for a 504 grant/loan combo package.

USDA RD's 504 Home Repair program provides loans to low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes, and grants to elderly homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.



Donna Ash looks out from her new deck, part of a 504 project to rehabilitate the home her father built in 1975.

Now a sturdy new deck in a fresh coat of forest green paint will greet Donna and guests when they approach the front door. And clean water is making its way from the town's water main up the hill to the little house where her father set down roots nearly 50 years ago. By partnering with USDA Rural Development to make crucial home repairs, the daughter who gave him dignity and care at the end of his life is keeping his memory alive by making her life better.

Date of Obligation: 10/11/20

Congressional District: Rep. Kuster, New Hampshire 2nd; Sen. Shaheen and Sen. Hassan

Partners: Tri-County Community Action

Demographics: Grafton County

Impact: Through a USDA 504 Home Repair loan and grant, Donna Ash repaired the rotting front deck and broken water line to the home she inherited from her late father. Having moved from out of state to care for him in 2010, she is relieved and proud to restore the property he built in 1975.