

Vermont

Housing • Single Family Direct Home Loan

In Loving Memory: Daughter Honors Parents with Home TLC

Lisa Tremblay of Newport, Vermont was taught a valuable lesson by her father at a young age. “He said you have to maintain a house a little bit at a time and keep up with it—or you’ll pay a lot more money down the road to fix whatever needs fixing,” she recalls. Lisa recently put her Dad’s advice into practice by replacing an aging roof with help from a USDA [504 Single Family Home Repair grant](#), which enables low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes and remove health and safety hazards.

“The old roof was 34 years old,” she explains. “It wasn’t leaking yet, but I know the signs of when it might become an issue, so I decided to get it done and save money in the long run. Most bids were \$11,000–\$15,000, which I couldn’t have afforded on my own. Thanks to the 504 repair money, I was able to get it done.”

Lisa’s home is not just a place she lives. It is a time capsule of her life and her parents’ lives; a priceless personal treasure that defines their family legacy. “I’ve lived in this house for 51 years, and I don’t want to move anywhere else! My parents built the house in ‘71. In ‘75, my Mother died when I was just 15. My Dad died 12 years later in ‘87. I’ve seen a lot of changes in this neighborhood. People grow up, move, marry and pass away. There used to be a field out back. Now it’s two more streets and more houses.”

The Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging (NEKCOA) works with USDA Rural Development staff to help residents secure funding for home repairs. Through Marie Cargill of the NEKCA, Lisa met RD Housing Specialist Janice Le Blanc, who helped her determine eligibility and fill out the 504 application. “It was easy enough to apply,” says Lisa. “Marie got it all going, and working with Janice was great. She’s very nice, I like her!”

This power duo also helped arrange contractors and services for Lisa’s required work, though this certainly isn’t her first home-improvement rodeo. “Over the years I’ve changed windows and the oil tank, painted the house, fixed up the bathroom. I need to have folks come out to cut down the maple trees around my house that the woodpeckers damaged. My dad always said, you can’t let something go or it becomes a big something, and I’ve always taken it to heart.”



Lisa Tremblay treats her home like the family treasure it is, taking advice from her Dad to stay on top of small issues so they can’t become big problems

Date of Obligation: 4/21/22

Congressional District: Rep. Welch, VT; Sen. Leahy and Sen. Sanders

District:

Impact: Lisa Tremblay of Newport, VT was given a valuable life lesson early on by her Father: Don’t let things go or they’ll become BIG things! Noticing that her old roof was showing signs of damage, she reached out to RD and other partners to help make crucial repairs before real damage could be done.