

A Fresh Coat of Care:

How Mission at the Eastward Helped a Widow Keep Her Home

When Ruth first noticed the peeling paint on her aging home in rural Maine, she knew she was in trouble. Her insurance company warned her that if the repairs weren't made, her policy could be canceled, putting her home—and her stability—at risk. A hole in the siding, where squirrels had begun nesting, threatened even more damage.

As a widowed, elderly woman battling the lingering effects of cancer, Ruth was unable to climb ladders or tackle the extensive repairs herself. Her struggles highlight the unique challenges faced by low-income rural residents in Maine, where limited access to resources often leaves homeowners vulnerable to compounding issues.



The peeling paint wasn't just an aesthetic issue; it posed serious risks. Homes with deteriorating paint are more susceptible to moisture infiltration, which can lead to mold growth, wood rot, and structural damage over time. Similarly, the hole in Ruth's siding could have caused havoc: squirrels nesting inside homes can chew through wiring, cause insulation damage, and even create fire hazards.



That's when Mission at the Eastward stepped in. Volunteers worked tirelessly to repaint Ruth's home and seal the hole, ensuring her house met insurance standards and was safe from further deterioration.

"Getting the repairs done meant the world to me," Ruth shared. "It meant that I could feel secure. My insurance wasn't going to get canceled, which would make a problem with my mortgage company."

The work was about more than just physical repairs—it was about restoring peace of mind.

"Knowing that I'm going to be okay for at least the next ten years means everything," Ruth said. "You got me through a tough time. You make sure that elderly, disabled, and those in need can stay in their homes, rather than have their houses fall into in on them or be in disrepair, or be in danger."



Ruth also spoke of the joy she found in the process, working alongside the volunteers who gave their time and energy to help her. “The most meaningful part was being able to work side-by-side with these people,” she said. “They were wonderful company, and they did a fantastic job. It wasn’t haphazard or sloppy—they gave their all.”

For low-income homeowners like Ruth, the stakes are high. A simple repair can make the difference between maintaining a home and facing homelessness. That’s why Mission at the Eastward remains committed to providing volunteer home repairs for those who need it most, ensuring that rural Mainers can stay safe and secure in their homes.

As the year draws to a close, we ask for your support. Your donation can help us continue providing critical repairs for families and individuals like Ruth. Together, we can restore homes—and peace of mind.

To make a gift and be a part of this vital work, visit <https://missionattheeastward.org/>. Together, we can build hope and security, one home at a time.

names have been changed to protect homeowner anonymity