

A Home to Pass On: How Mission at the Eastward Transformed One Family’s Future



Living in their home since 1990, Paul and Sarah faced an overwhelming challenge—a leaking roof that hadn’t been replaced since 1958. Decades of wear had left the roof in dire condition, with rot and leaks causing severe damage to the house and dangerous black mold. For Paul and Sarah, repairing the roof was more than just a matter of comfort; it was essential for their home’s survival and their future stability.

“When it rained, it was like a total panic for me,” Sarah shared. “The first night it rained after the new roof, I kept thinking, ‘I need the totes!’ But we didn’t need them anymore. That moment meant the world to me.”

Like many low-income families in rural Maine, Paul and Sarah faced financial and physical barriers that made tackling the costly and labor-intensive project impossible on their own. Despite Paul’s skills as a carpenter, the steeply pitched roof and the expense of materials were insurmountable obstacles. That’s when Mission at the Eastward (MATE) stepped in.



MATE’s dedicated volunteers replaced the roof, ensuring the home could withstand Maine’s harsh weather for years to come. The collaboration wasn’t one-sided—Paul worked alongside the volunteers, sharing his expertise and assisting with the complex project. “The volunteers were good listeners and worked well together,” Paul noted. “We got to know all the guys and girls. We built friendships during the work. It wasn’t just about business—there was real communication and connection.”



The impact of the repairs went far beyond the roof itself. “Now we can repair the inside of the house,” Sarah explained. “It takes so much stress off me, knowing the house is safe. It means we’ll be able to live out the rest of our lives here and even pass the house on to our kids. It saved the house.”

Inspired by his experience with MATE, Paul returned the following season to give back. He served as a Site Supervisor, leading a group of teenage volunteers on another home repair project. His knowledge and leadership transformed the experience for the young participants, just as MATE had transformed his own home and life.

Paul and Sarah's story is just one example of how MATE's mission strengthens families and communities. By providing critical home repairs, MATE ensures that families like Paul and Sarah's can remain in their homes, avoiding the devastating cycle of homelessness.

This holiday season, your support can help more families in rural Maine overcome barriers to safe, stable housing. Together, we can build not just roofs, but futures filled with hope and security for countless families.

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

