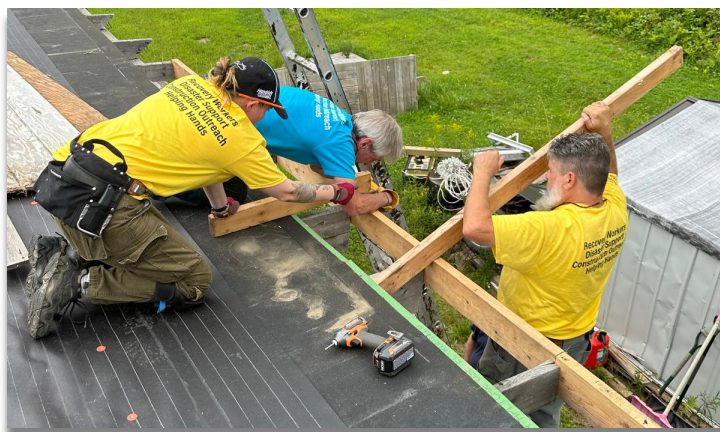


A Roof Over Their Heads: How Mission at the Eastward Restores Hope for Maine Families

When a devastating winter storm ripped the roof off her family’s rural Maine home just before Christmas in 2023, Diane, her husband, and their daughter found themselves in a desperate situation. Diane recalls, “We tried to apply for FEMA, but because my husband made the house ‘livable’ by pulling down the metal, they wouldn’t do anything. We had buckets lined up throughout the house catching water, but no help was coming.”

Like many low-income to moderately-low income families in rural Maine, Diane’s family fell into a gap—unable to afford major repairs but also ineligible for government assistance. “Where were we going to live? Who was going to put us up in a hotel or pay our rent somewhere else?” Diane shared. The sense of hopelessness was overwhelming, especially as the risk of black mold and structural damage loomed.



Enter Mission at the Eastward (MATE), a nonprofit dedicated to providing critical home repairs for vulnerable populations. When all other avenues failed, MATE stepped in. Volunteers from Bedford Presbyterian Church in New Hampshire came together with one goal: to give Diane’s family back their home and peace of mind.

“I probably cried more the day the roof got put on than I had in a while—tears of joy,” Diane said. “The volunteers were phenomenal, like a well-oiled machine. They were so pleasant, kind, and

conscientious. Interacting with them was like being with family and friends.”

Thanks to MATE’s efforts, the family no longer fears rainstorms. “I thank God every time it rains that the roof isn’t leaking,” Diane added. She expanded on what the repairs meant to her. “It means breathing easier. It means peace of mind. I don’t know what we would have done without you. MATE was the only one who came to help.”

This story is just one of many highlighting the importance of organizations like MATE in tackling the housing crisis faced by low-income families in Maine. For families like Diane’s, these repairs are more than construction projects—they’re lifelines, providing stability and preserving dignity.

As the holidays approach, MATE is calling on the community to support their mission. Your donation ensures that more families can stay in their homes, safe and warm, no matter the weather.



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