

Building a Future: How Mission at the Eastward Helped a Family Stay Together



For Sam and Laura, raising their three young grandchildren was a labor of love born out of necessity. When the children were removed from their mother's custody, the couple stepped in to provide a stable home. But their aging house in rural Maine, with a roof that leaked and ceilings damaged by black mold, posed a dangerous obstacle.



“The state told us the house had to be up to code for us to keep the kids,” Laura explained. “The water was leaking into the insulation, and the ceilings were rotting and coming down. The mold was terrifying—especially for our middle grandson, who was born premature and has a respiratory condition. If we didn’t fix it, he might have ended up back in the hospital, hooked to a breathing machine.”

Faced with mounting stress and no resources to replace the roof, the couple felt trapped. “I was exhausted. I felt like I had rocks on top of me and I couldn’t breathe. I couldn’t sleep at night,” Laura said. “I was afraid that today’s the day the state is going to come and take the boys because we couldn’t get this done.”

That’s when Mission at the Eastward stepped in. Volunteers replaced the roof, eliminated the leaks, and repaired the ceilings—transforming the home into a safer and more stable environment.

“The volunteers were very polite and caring,” Laura said. “They even signed the last tile they put up, gave us a prayer, and prayed with us after, which was very much needed. I needed that prayer. I needed it so much right about then.”

The repairs meant more than just a functional roof; they meant a future.

“I’ve got the boys,” Laura said. “That was my goal: to keep the boys. And to have this done was like a miracle. Sam and I had been worrying about this for two years. When it was done, I felt like I could finally breathe.”

In rural Maine, where resources are scarce, challenges like these are all too common. Mold, leaks, and structural damage don't just threaten the safety of a home—they threaten families. Low-income residents often face the impossible choice between paying for costly repairs or risking the loss of their homes.

Thanks to the work of Mission at the Eastward, Sam and Laura's grandchildren can grow up in a safe, loving environment.

As the holidays approach, we're reminded of the power of community and compassion. Your support allows us to continue helping families like Sam and Laura's. Together, we can build homes—and futures.



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