

Steps Toward Safety:

How Mission at the Eastward Helped a 72-Year-Old Widow Regain Peace of Mind

For 72-year-old Gloria, her rural Maine home had become a source of worry. Living alone and relying solely on social security, Gloria faced a growing safety hazard: her back staircase, the second exit from her mobile home, was crumbling and unusable. “I couldn’t afford to get the steps repaired,” she shared. “Without that fire escape, I didn’t feel safe.”

In mobile homes, a second exit is not just a convenience—it’s a lifeline. Emergency scenarios like fires, which spread quickly due to the compact design of mobile homes, make it critical to have multiple escape routes. A blocked or unsafe exit can mean the difference between life and death.



After years of searching for help, Gloria turned to Mission at the Eastward (MATE). The organization’s volunteers replaced her unsafe staircase, ensuring Gloria had a secure escape route and the ability to enjoy her backyard again.



“Because of MATE, I now have safe access in and out of my back door, which is my fire escape,” she said. “I feel safe now.”

The experience was transformative for Gloria, not just because of the repairs but also due to the kindness of the volunteers. “These kids were respectful, helpful, and kind. They felt like my grandkids. It was a week, but I feel like I knew them for a lifetime,” she said. “The repairs mean peace of mind, safety, and how much people care.”

Gloria’s story reflects the vital work MATE does in rural Maine: addressing critical safety needs for those unable to afford repairs on their own. As the holidays approach, your support can make a lasting difference for homeowners like Gloria.

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

