



# Building Connections

## NEWSLETTER

*Repairing homes and hearts as churches serve together*



## Volunteer efforts help transform addiction care in Gwinnett

### **Susan and Farley Barge had a big dream.**

"We already had Navigate Recovery Gwinnett, which is an addiction recovery community organization and we provide recovery services there," explained Susan. "And we saw a huge need for residential services."

But finding a home for an addiction recovery center? It felt like a big hurdle.

"We had seen this bed and breakfast for sale," said Susan. "And we said, 'God, this would make a really good home for a recovery place. But it's a little over our heads.' So, we just prayed about it."

Then, six months later, amazing things started happening.

"One of the people on our prayer team called me," she explained. "And she said, 'I've got some money to invest in real estate, and there's this house that I think would make a really great recovery place.'"

Turns out, they had all been eyeing the same bed and breakfast. And that 2019 conversation kicked off a partnership and helped launch Lightway Recovery.

But it turns out finding a home was only half the battle. The former Flowery Branch B&B needed a recovery of its own before it could serve women recovering from addiction.

"We had to add a whole-house sprinkler system, for one thing," added Susan, now CEO of Lightway. "And we were devastated when we saw how ugly the sprinkler system was. It was a huge orange pipe running all through the house. Not in the ceiling, but right at the ceiling, like six inches below."

But when they connected with Home Repairs through a friend at 12Stone, Home Repairs' volunteer and Board President Bill Isaak found a solution.

"Bill Isaak came up with the idea of doing a thin wood box [around the sprinkler pipes] and it looks fantastic," she said. "It's amazing what a difference it makes."

# Volunteer efforts help transform addiction care in Gwinnett

*continued from cover*



**SUSAN BARGE**

But it wasn't just the original ideas that impressed them, said Susan.

"Not only did they really know what they were doing, all the volunteers just had the best spirit about them," she said. "We had other contractors working on the house, doing finish work, and they were just a great influence."

During their time working at the Lightway Recovery house, Home Repairs volunteers were able to help with various other projects, including installing upgraded doors in the attic, bathrooms and other rooms, installing hardware, trim, and more.

From Susan's point of view, these projects have the potential to make an eternal difference.

"I know they typically work with widows and people who are having a struggle of some sort, but they are really going to impact a lot of lives here, too," Susan said. "As we work with women, we're hoping to impact their children and their families and that impacts another whole generation. We couldn't have picked a better partner to do that with. It just meant so much to us that they came alongside us to help us do that."

*Lightway Recovery Wellness Center, a sister organization to Navigate Recovery Gwinnett, provides long-term, residential recovery support to women, including pregnant and postpartum women. Learn more at [lightwayrecovery.org](http://lightwayrecovery.org).*

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*Want to learn more about volunteering at Home Repairs Ministries? Visit [HomeRepairs.org](http://HomeRepairs.org).*



## A Longing to Serve

**For Bill Isaak, volunteering is a dream job.**

"I made a commitment when I was young to retire early in life so that I could spend my time and energy doing volunteer projects," said Bill. "While I was working, my time to volunteer was limited, but my goal was always to give back and use my gifts in a meaningful way."

Now semi-retired, Bill lives in Gwinnett County with his wife and finds time to golf and exercise. But his favorite hobby? Volunteering.

Bill, who has served with Home Repairs for about a decade, originally connected with Home Repairs through another volunteer project — a Habitat Build coordinated by Perimeter Church. Over the years he's helped on a variety of jobs with Home Repairs.

"I've been involved in many different projects with HRM including large deck projects, handicap ramps, a basement remodel, concrete work, painting, and repairs to siding, gutters, electrical, plumbing, drywall, and roofs," he said.

Bill, the newly-chosen president of Home Repairs' board of directors, said it's about more than adding new drywall or patching a roof.

"It can be difficult and expensive for these homeowners to find people to make the repairs they need. Without HRM, many of these repairs would often not be done," Bill said.

That's why Bill not only gives his time but gives financially as well.





**BILL ISAAK (MIDDLE)**

"I believe in HRM's mission, so it wasn't a hard decision for me to begin giving," he said.

But it's the homeowners themselves who prompt Bill to continue giving — like the homeowner with Lou Gehrig's disease who needed a ramp in order to watch his son's baptism.

"We began that project on a Wednesday, but they asked if it could be completed by 10 a.m. Saturday," explained Bill. "This father hoped to use the ramp to leave the house for his son's baptism. We worked hard and were able to complete it in time. We even got a picture of the ramp, finished on time, to help fulfill his dream."

Mark Wolfe, executive director for Home Repairs, said he's grateful for Bill's support over the years.

"Bill exhibits the concept of full engagement, serving as board president, head of fundraising, leading projects, and working as a full-time ambassador for Home Repairs Ministries," explained Mark. "All of this is driven by his desire to help our clients stay safely in their homes."

*Both volunteers and donors are what makes Home Repairs Ministries able to fulfill its mission of repairing homes and hearts. Visit [homerepairs.org](http://homerepairs.org) today to learn more about becoming a volunteer or financial supporter.*

# CHANGE LIVES WHILE PLAYING GOLF!

The 2020 Home Repairs Golf Classic includes a round of golf, box lunch, pig roast dinner and an awards reception. This fundraiser enables Home Repairs to provide critical home repairs and modifications for seniors, single moms and those with disabilities.

**SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2020 11 A.M. - 7 P.M.  
BEAR'S BEST ATLANTA**

**REGISTER NOW AT [HOMEREPAIRS.ORG](http://HOMEREPAIRS.ORG)**

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*We look forward to hosting our annual golf classic and seeing our regular players along with first-time players. We are especially excited that we can host this year's tournament given the times we are in. While this year's tournament may feel different with all the safety precautions, it does not change our mission of helping those in need. We are extremely thankful for those participating and supporting those we serve.*

**MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF HOME REPAIRS**



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and show the love of Jesus  
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