Success Story: Ms. Carter's Home
Elkton, VA

Ms. Carter's Story

Ms. Carter, who has lived in her small home in Elkton since 1979, reached out to the Harrisonburg Rockingham United Way for assistance with her home in early 2022. United Way sent her to CHP Energy Solutions. After program approval and an initial visit, it became apparent the home was not ready for weatherization. In collaboration with local contractors and funding through Virginia's Weatherization Deferral Repair (WDR) program, CHP began addressing the various challenges in the home. The goal was to correct the immediate safety concerns while providing the repairs required before the home could be safely weatherized.

Amory Fisher, an Energy Auditor with CHP Energy Solutions, was first to arrive at Ms. Carter's home in early 2022. "It is no exaggeration to say that the WDR program saved this home. When I arrived on site for the first time, the roof was leaking, the septic was backed up into the basement, and the oil furnace was rusted out - all of which we were able to fix with WDR." Throughout the Summer and into Fall 2022, CHP's network of contractor partners like Bradley Electric provided the needed repairs to Ms. Carter's home. The basement was washed and cleaned up, the electrical was upgraded, and a new heat pump, water heater, and roof were installed. With the necessary repairs and upgrades complete, Ms. Carter's home received weatherization through Dominion Energy's EnergyShare Weatherization Services Program in Winter 2022. Ms. Carter, who works full time and takes pride in the home she raised a family in, is grateful for the improvements to her home. She knew that even working full-time, such improvements were out of reach. "It will be so much nicer here when I come home from work," she shared. "I've been here for about 43 years. There have been challenges, but I'm going to keep on living here."
Before Virginia’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in 2020, homes like Ms. Carter’s were typically deferred. Limited weatherization funds cannot cover repairs needed to prepare homes for weatherization, so CHP and other weatherization providers were unable to serve households like Ms. Carter. This led to a backlog of households, often those most in need, who were unable to access the powerful benefits of the weatherization program. Families were left trying to find help elsewhere.

RGGI now generates millions in funding for energy efficiency and flood mitigation programs annually. One of those programs, the Weatherization Deferral Repair (WDR) program, has enabled weatherization providers to serve Ms. Carter’s home, and hundreds more like hers, by making her home ‘weatherization ready’. Urgent health and safety work was completed, including electrical and plumbing repairs, as well as a new roof. As a result, one more home can see lower utility bills and improved health, safety, and comfort that would not have been able to before the WDR program was established.

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Energy Auditor
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