

Recap of Ms. Tia/Mr. Athel May 9th Go Event

It's been a few weeks since our Second Saturday on May 9th , and it was an awesome GO Event! Everyone that was there knows and saw God show up!

The backstory is this: Ms. Tia is a mother with two children, a full-time job, and she is going to school to become a nurse. In the middle of all of that, she took her father, Mr. Athel, into her home. Mr. Athel has severe medical issues and is confined to a wheelchair. Ms. Tia had converted her single-car garage into a bedroom for him, and while it was nice, it sat two steps below the main house. That made getting Mr. Athel in and out of the house very difficult. Even inside the home, he was still confined because there was no wheelchair ramp.

EmmanuWheel/Chris Sharpe reach out to us to partner on the project. The main challenge inside the home was building a raised floor system inside Mr. Athel's bedroom so his wheelchair could roll directly into the room safely from the main house level.

On Second Saturday, the team (Chris, Andrew, Ray, Alex, Marv, Kerry) basically built a floor inside the room much like a deck. It was attached to the walls, supported by 4x4s, covered with subflooring, and then finished with LVP flooring. That single project took 7+ people and was completed in about four hours.

Amen? Amen!

What people may not know is that team met onsite three separate times beforehand to plan the process so the workday itself would be efficient and organized. Chris handled the design work, and the rest of the team came together to make it happen. When the work was complete, Mr. Athel rolled his wheelchair into his bedroom for the first time.

There were many other things happening around the home that day as well. We were blessed to have a group from Radius Church Long Pond join us Thanks to Barnabas, Katie, Will, Evan, and Ashley. They helped with painting and light installations, and we were grateful to have them there. We were also blessed to have the youngest Second Saturday participant ever.

Three-month-old Henry rode along with his mom Ashley while she helped paint the front railings with Zoe, Londyn, and Justeen. Barnabas stepped in and led the effort to replace the mailbox and post working with Grady and Harrison. He even had his specialized post hole digger which was awesome.

Mose and Greg probably had one of the biggest challenges of the day replacing the front storm door. People were constantly coming through that doorway all day long, but they stayed patient, worked through it, and still got the job done well! There are many Bible passages about patience and they lived up to them At the end of the day, as we were leaving, Ms. Tia told me how happy she was with that new door.

Elizabeth and Crystal blessed Ms. Tia by working on the kitchen cleaning team. They not only helped clean and organize, but they also got to spend time talking and encouraging her throughout the day.

We were glad to have Trevor from Northside Christian join us and work with Micah installing the exterior lighting. And Chamblee handled pressure washing the back porch area.

Mr. Joseph and his crew repaired fencing and gate issues around the property. They made one gate usable again and added a latch to another gate so the children could safely play in the backyard.

Michael J worked on what we originally thought was a simple crawlspace framing repair. Once he got into it, he realized the framing had to be completely replaced. It became a much bigger undertaking than expected, but he stayed with it and got it done. It was a task of perseverance. Thanks brother!

We also had a great lunch back at The Shop afterward where Chuck was cooking for everyone. There was a lot of good fellowship sitting around together in The Shop, which was clean as a whistle thanks to Tracy and Jessica getting everything organized both inside and out before we arrived back.

I always want everyone to know how much we appreciate every person who shows up to serve. Every project matters, and every volunteer matters. If I missed you (David), just know that we appreciate you!

This GO event was truly special, and the blessings are not finished yet.

EmmanuWheel and Mount Horeb, who we have partnered with in the past, are coming on June 6 to install a wheelchair ramp for Mr. Athel. Once that ramp is complete, he will finally be able to get out of the house safely on his own.

But wait — there's more. And this is how God works.

Do you remember Ms. Candy whose house we worked on in April? A deacon from her church - Alan, who also worked with us at Mr. Jeff's house in April on the Team Depot project, called me recently and asked if we had a need for a motorized wheelchair. The answer when someone offers us things that people need is "Yes". And it wasn't just a standard chair. It was a heavy-duty motorized chair built for a larger person, which will fit Mr. Athel perfectly.

Marvin and I picked the chair up on Saturday and went and got new batteries installed for it. This coming Saturday we will be taking it over to Mr. Athel. For the first time, he should be able to ride under his own power down that new ramp and out to the sidewalk. And we hope and pray that he will be able to take that sidewalk across the street to the Outreach Church — the same church where Pastor Alonzo allowed us to park during the workday — so that Mr. Athel can go worship the God who sent His people to help. We appreciate Pastor Alonzo for leading devotion and prayin us "in". We'll keep you posted on Mr. Athel and his adventures!