

NMRP NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, June 2024

Welcome to the New Mexico Ramp Project's official newsletter! I'd like to start off by thanking every volunteer that is involved in this project, as we are developing at a faster rate than I thought imaginable! Each week, we are helping more individuals in need and giving back more people their freedom without any cost to them. This wouldn't be possible without our amazing team.

-Executive Director, Greg Hallstrom.

Important Links

There are many resources on the website that include how to get involved, important building documents, how to donate, requesting a ramp for yourself or a loved one, and volunteer opportunities. Please see the links we have listed below to become more involved with the New Mexico Ramp Project!

[Link to the website](#)

[How to Donate](#)

[Corporate Information](#)

[Request a Ramp](#)

[Ramp Modules/Team Leader Documents](#)

**Contact Operations Manager For the Password!

[Sister Company, Texas Ramp Project](#)



New Mexico Ramp Project

What's New

Word From Executive Director

Important Links

Ramp and Team of the Month

Ramp Building Techniques

Thank you from our Volunteers!

Team Leaders Corner

Thank you from our Ramp Recipient!

Thank you University Heights UMC!

All State Member Retreat

NMRP Power Partners

Ramp and Team of the Month in April

Our team and ramp of the month will go to the University United Methodist Church and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) in Las Cruces! One of the ramps they built together in April belongs to a 52-year-old woman who was at high risk of falls due to her rheumatoid arthritis diagnosis and chronic pain. She had mobility issues and trouble getting in and out of her house with her walker due to the stairs.

This ramp was built on a mobile home and was 48 feet long. This ramp was built by 26 volunteers and 100 hours of labor.

Now that her ramp is built, she has a new found freedom and independence that she couldn't achieve with her walker and stairs. Her two adult teens are now granted some peace of mind as well, not having to worry about their mother falling without their assistance.

A very amazing job from the LDS and University UMC Churches in Las Cruces!



Volunteer Team

Building Techniques: Threshold (Rubber) Ramps

For the past few months, New Mexico Ramp Project has been using more rubber ramps as a way to accommodate small rises for the threshold going into the house or off of the ramp. Almost all of our ramps are wooden. Unfortunately, there are times where the wood will be hard to work with. However, we are able to install rubber ramps in these areas to account for this issue and eliminate any fear of tripping while leaving their home. Rubber ramps are also an excellent alternative for those whose doorways are only 4 inches tall or under, as this rubber ramp can be installed easier, quicker, and more cost efficient for these circumstances.

Some benefits of the rubber ramp include no rusting or corroding; it can withstand many types of weather conditions over time, heavy foot traffic, and can ensure a secure fit to any surface it's placed on, such wood and cement. Rubber ramps are made from recycled tires, which gives it an excellent traction.

Placing a screw through the threshold ramp will ensure it stays secure and prevents slipping.



Thank you from Menaul School!



**MENAU
SCHOOL**

World Smart

*From the desk of the Head of School
Chaplain*

Dear Greg,

Thank you so much for working with our Menaul school students over our Mission week. I am glad they were able to learn some valuable construction skills, as well as appreciating the value of giving back to our community.

Thanks for what you do!

Peace, Rev. Scanlan

Team Leaders Corner

First and foremost, we want to thank the Mortgage Finance Authority for their very generous grant!

With the large grant we received from the Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) we also have reporting requirements to keep the funds flowing. This is a cost reimbursement grant, which means we put out the money to build the ramp and we have to submit a report on each ramp to get our funds back. This will allow us to pay for all the materials required to build ramps for the next 2 years.

They also require we verify income on each household. To make it easy on us, they allow us to use any program that does income verification to meet this requirement. We just need a picture of the program documentation. This form can be sent directly to build@nmramp.org. IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION AND THE SUPPORTING PICTURES WE WILL NOT BE PAID FOR THE RAMP.

We have tried to do income verifications with volunteers from the corporate office and it doesn't work very well. I've been doing surveys and asking income verification questions. This is much easier because you can walk the client through the documents to see if we get the right information. Some people get confused between medicare (Not applicable) and medicaid (Applicable)

A lot of people only have Social Security and we can use their annual statement (SSA-1099). We also can use the first 2 pages of last year's income tax return. If the annual income for the household is under \$96,200 they meet the requirement - we just have to document it.

We are asking you to help us to keep the money flowing. Take a picture of the documents and send by email to BUILD@NMRAMP.ORG

We do have limited unrestricted funds to build ramps if we cannot use the MFA funds. If you cannot get any income verification information please call me to see if funds are available before you build. You can also call Carol Million if you have any questions regarding the income verification process and what qualifies.

Because of issues with Rio Grande Credit Union (RCCU) all of their debit cards are being replaced with a US Bank card. If you have a RCCU card it will still work until Karen Hall lets you know its deactivation date.

Greg Hallstrom, Executive Director

Thank you University Heights United Methodist Church!

2024 started off with so many exciting new opportunities. The NMRP is deeply grateful to the church for the use of their facility which provides office space for the teams to plan for the construction of the ramps, prepare and recruit the teams needed, and plan for all the supplies required for both the ramps and volunteers. An estimated 13.7% of the NM population has serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs. Since 2019 over 335 ramps have been built all across the State of NM. We currently have 31 building teams in Albuquerque, Artesia, Belen, Hobbs, Espanola, Las Cruces, Farmington, Roswell, Carlsbad, and Santa Fe. All ramps are free to the families. Volunteers are welcome from all parts of the state. Come and join us!



Operations Manager Carol Million &
Executive Director Greg Hallstrom

All State Member Retreat

Our last all state member retreat was a great success! **We invite all team members to mark your calendars for March 14th and 15th in 2025 for our next meeting.** More details will be communicated once we are closer to the event.



2024 Board of Directors

Left to right: **Executive Director Greg Hallstrom, Doug Rowley, Tom Dawe, Melissa Hilleary, Karen Hall, Claude Wescott, Ann Edenfield Sweet, & Bill Schattschneider**
Missing: Board Chair Les Bruce

Guest Speaker



Amy Fisher
BCBS

Learning about building ramps all across New Mexico

Operations Manager



Carol Million

THANKS to the Teams—GREAT WORK!



Thank you from our ramp recipient, Mary!

A special Thank you.
To Albert his Wife
and The crew for
their hard work.
That made This possible
I am very Pleased with
The ramp it has made
life so much easier
for me.

Thank you all
+
God Bless you.

Mary Moody

where there is kindness,
there is gratitude
your support means
everything to me

thank you so much
to The N.M Ramp Project
for making it so
much easier to get in
and out of my home.
Thanks again

Mary Moody

Power Partners: Blake's Lotaburger

Blake's has helped the New Mexico Ramp Project tremendously with their contributions at our Albuquerque fabrication site, transport of materials across the state, and volunteer work on site to build ramps. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to this important cause.



NMRP has amazing volunteer opportunities for everyone! Are you interested in getting involved?

We currently have many volunteer opportunities open, including Team Leads, office accounting, and A.I. developers! Please inquire with our team for further information.