



# Lighthouse Ministry offers R.A.M.P program to help the handicap

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FLORENCE, S.C. (WBTW) - According to the 2010 United States Census Bureau, over 50 million people living in the U.S. have some sort of disability. Its statistics are this that caused Lighthouse Ministries to take action. Lighthouse Ministries has been serving the Florence community for years, helping families in need of food, shelter, and more. Now with their new RAMP Medical Assistance Program, they are continuing their mission of helping people in the community.

"We created the program to help people in Florence County who are disabled and do not have the financial means to build themselves a ramp. We found examples where some people have not left their home in 2 years because they didn't have anyway to get out of the house," said Cecilia Meggs, Executive Director of Lighthouse Ministries.

Currently funded by the United Way of Florence, volunteers of the Lighthouse Ministries RAMP Program have been able to install over 40 ramps to those in need this past year.

"We built a ramp for a 95 year old man one day and after we built the ramp for him, he was so appreciative that he called our local church men's group together and he prayed with everyone," said Milton Phillips, who has served as a Lighthouse Ministry volunteer for 3 years.

With the positive response from people in the community and more knowing about the program, Lighthouse Ministry has seen an increase in applicants. As a result they see on average 2 families a week to discuss having ramps installed in the homes.

"When people come in to inquire about the ramp program, we take them through an interview, assess their needs and then move forward with setting an appointment to have a ramp built," said Meggs.

Theresa Graham, who lives in Florence, was diagnosed with Lupus and said because she could not afford to have a ramp built. After hearing about the program, she reached out to Lighthouse Ministry for assistance.

"I had trouble coming up and down the steps but since they put they installed the ramp I have seen great improvement. I am glad that I can now get in and out of my house," said Graham.

If you are interested in learning more about the R.A.M.P Medical Assistance Program, You can contact Lighthouse Ministry at 843.629.0830 or you can reach Cecilia Meggs, Executive Director by email at [cmeggs@sprinc.com](mailto:cmeggs@sprinc.com) net for more information.

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