

### Nancy Elliott's Stairs

By Verne Blalack

IN THE BEGINNING, there was a very dilapidated stairway with invasive roots from a tall dangerously rotten tree. Thanks to AVISTA, the tree was skillfully removed without damaging anyone or anything. (Yeh!)

THEN, I dug (& dug) and sawed (& sawed) the tree roots out.

THEN, the workers, John Delaney, Jared Kitchen, CJ Leetch dug (& dug) postholes until the posthole diggers had to be repaired.

THEN, the posthole diggers were repaired "overnight", at "no charge" by Mike's Specialty Welding with "steel handles".

THEN, under Rick Gilbert's carefully measured & calculated plans, the workers dug (& dug); mixed concrete, packed concrete in buckets up the steep hillside' set posts in concrete; leveled out the old landing; nailed the stringers onto the posts and to the house; nailed on the treads & risers; and attached the graspable handrails.

NOW: Nancy Elliot has pressure treated stairs set in extra strength concrete; a level landing; eleven inch treads; seven & one half inch risers; and a graspable handrail on both sides.

THANKS, everyone, including a city that's easy to work with and wise advice from building inspector, Dale Magnus. It's GREAT when a community works together.

PS: All materials were obtained locally: pressure treated wood and extra strength concrete from Kellogg Lumber Company and cement and concrete mix from Building Maintenance & Supply.

### Need

The need is truly great: We need volunteers to help at the ReUse Store since R'Gean Lillibridge is not able to work the 2 days she normally served. We not only need people to replace her but also to help unload the donated items, to clean, price and display them. We also need those willing to do some housework to keep the store neat and clean.

Keep in mind that next year we will be working on a new home for John "Boy" Delaney. So get your schedule ready to include time helping with his home.

*Don't withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it. Don't say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again; tomorrow I will give it to you," when you have it by you. Don't devise evil against your neighbor, since he dwells securely by you.*

**Proverbs 3:27-29**



Photo at right shows Rick Gilbert, Verne & CJ Leetch clearing the site.  
*Photo by John "Boy" Delaney*



Jared Kitchen packs a bucket of concrete up the hill from the mixing crew of CJ Leetch & John Delaney to Rick Gilbert where it is poured around a post. Verne is digging a new post hole.  
*Photo by Judy*



Jason Elliott captures Rick, John & Jared being carpenters.

## WOW—The Final Result ☺



Photo by John “Boy” Delaney

Nancy’s son, Jason, comments: “Hey looks great. Definitely an improvement over the stairs we had over the last 15 years. Having the wood walkway should be a great improvement. The time and dedication that the Fuller Center crew put in is greatly appreciated.”



## Supervisors

Our volunteer construction supervisors this year are Rick Gilbert, Rick Wood, and Verne Blalack. All three helped during their spare time. We had to limit the number of Greater Blessings project for lack of more supervisors. Please be ready next spring to volunteer with us for the next projects. In addition to supervisors, we also need those willing to work with them and *maybe* learn new skills.

## Sousa’s Home Paint Job



John “Boy” Delaney took this shot of Shannon Souza’s home after he finished putting the final coat of paint on this side. He has been helping Verne as much as possible with this project. This is the side with many, many old wires that Marianna Groth tested before removing the unused ones so Verne could scrape off the old peeling paint.



Photo by Judy

Verne climbs a ladder in the narrow space next to the neighbor’s fence. This side (opposite the photo above) is almost finished. The painting on the back side is finished so, as you can see, there is still work to be done on the front of the Souza home.

They hope to have it all finished before the weather gets too cold. At this time, the temperature doesn’t reach 50° until about 11 AM and the paint requires 4 warm hours to dry—leaving a small time frame on good days.

## Debra Bornitz's Roof

By Verne Blalack

Debbie Bornitz lives in a manufactured home by Bentley Creek in Kootenai County. In heavy runoff years, Bentley Creek floods some of the properties adjacent to the creek. Debra has wisely placed her home high enough above flood level and has papers from the county to confirm that fact. [When we helped the Otto's with their home on Fern Creek, we had to have a surveyor establish their elevation before we could update their home as needed.] However, every time it snowed much, Debbie had to shovel the snow off the roof before it became too heavy—enough to endanger it. The trusses on her manufactured home are quite small. When her old roof started leaking, we took on the task of replacing it.

Rick Wood (a very helpful neighbor) felt a metal roof would be much better than replacing the roof with an asphalt one. He was right, of course, as it would help remove the weight of the snow in winter.

Although Clint Kunze had crews of youth Servant Adventurers from Shoshone Mountain Retreat available to help, the extreme heat and then smoke plus the fear of too much weight on the roof of a large crew eliminated them. So this fall we hired Bogie and Sons to install a metal roof after we removed the asphalt shingles. (Bogie & Sons had roofed two of our first homes—the Lane and Otto homes for us.) Steve Bougard placed his dumpster along side of the house where Rick Wood, his wife, Shannon, John “Boy” Delaney, and I threw all the old shingles in it.

Now that the roof is on, we have the porch entry to contend with. We will place a gutter on the fascia above the entry door, diverting the water from the roof to the left of the porch. Next spring we intend to replace the wooden porch with a concrete one.

Debbie is fortunate to have such great neighbors as Rick and Shannon Wood. We once again appreciate the excellent work of Bogie and Sons. And I, once again, appreciate the help of John “Boy” Delaney who has become my “partner” in all our non-profit housing projects. He has been selected to be a new homeowner but has long since put in his required “sweat equity.”

### Update on building in Nepal from the Fuller Center for Housing's Website:

We published [this article on our website](#) about how your gifts are being put to work in Nepal building safe, permanent homes for those impacted by April's massive earthquake. The first houses in our 200-home initiative are under way, and our experts on the ground are sharing their knowledge about building earthquake-resistant homes with other builders in Nepal so that their homes can survive future quakes the way our Fuller Center homes survived this past one.



Verne & Rick Wood remove the roof from the front porch of Debbie Bornitz's home before her main roof could be replaced. *Photo by Judy*



While Shannon Wood removes old shingles at right, Verne uses a flash light inside a vent hole to examine the framing of the manufactured home's roof. The rafters are very narrow, limiting the weight load. *Photo by John "Boy"*



Beth Otto planned to photograph Bogie & Sons crew installing the roof on Saturday. However, they were able to do it on Friday, but she was unable to be there. Here she does catch Rick Wood as he examines the new roof. Debbie Bornitz waits below.

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Note: we receive donations through Inland NW Combined Federal Campaign, a Federal program which receives financial donations from Federal employees' paychecks, and directs those funds to the specific 501(c)3 charities or federations selected by the employees themselves. If you are a federal employee, please find us on the list.

**We are honored to receive these memorials.**

*From Jim & Kay Calkins  
In memory of Larry Flory  
And of Don Milholland*

**Greater Blessings Fund**

Judy & Verne Blalack, Shannon Souza,

**ReUse Store Operational Fund**

Kathy & Lauren McPeak, Brad Fieser

**Medical Update**

We were sorry to learn of medical issues with two of our board members, Marilyn White and R'Gean Lillibridge.

Marilyn has had a successful cancer surgery and is now home with help from healthcare professionals.

R'Gean, however, at this time is still in Shoshone Medical Center where she is recovering from falling down stairs during the night. She is enjoying the great food at the hospital and watching a lot of TV. She is taking physical therapy to learn to walk again.

Please keep both of them on your prayer lists.

**Here's Help for SVFCH . . .**

- ❖ I'd like to join the "300 Club" and pledge at least \$10 per month for one year. Please note 300 on your check.
- ❖ Here is my pledge for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for one year.
- ❖ Here is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- ❖ I have a house and/or land to donate.
- ❖ I can make a no-interest loan for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please call about working out the details.
- ❖ I can provide construction materials either discounted or at no cost.
- ❖ I would like to help with construction and/or committee work. Please call me to help or send a volunteer form.

I do not wish to be on your mailing list.  
 I do not wish a receipt or thank-you.

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**Please return to Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, Inc. P.O. Box 338, Smelterville, ID 83868 786-6013**

**Coming Events**

- Nov 7 & 8—34<sup>th</sup> Annual Silver Valley Arts & Craft Fair, Silver Hills Elementary School, Osburn
- Nov 10—Board & Committee meetings, 6:30 PM, Mountain View Congregational Church
- Nov 26—Thanksgiving



John Wollaston watches as Verne helps Joe Jenicek wrap a chain around the antique safe which was originally donated by "Smitty" of Smitty's Locksmith Service. Joe used his front loader to move it to its new home with John.

*Photo by Judy*



At back, R'Gean Lillibridge sorts the newsletters before putting them into the postal trays for mailing. Ellie Arguimbau, Janice DeVoe, Ruby Hill, April Muhs, Dixie Lepo, Patti Houchin, and Penny Michael (not shown) also helped with the October mailing

*Photo by Judy*



At left, Rick Gilbert listens to Building Inspector Mark Magnus as he offers useful insight about the Elliot stair construction.

*Photo by John "Boy" Delaney*



This piano needs a new home. The price is \$50 except for schools or churches—then it is free!

*Photo by Brad Fieser*



Here are a few of the prizes for our Christmas Raffle to be held at the Silver Valley Arts & Craft Fair, Nov. 7 & 8, at the Silver Hills Elementary School, Osburn. *See you there.*

The printing of this newsletter is courtesy of  
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**Supporters Like You**



## WISH LIST

**Grant Writer**  
**Volunteers to work at**  
**the ReUse Store.**

**PR or Fund Raising or Greater Blessings**  
**Co-Chairs Call Judy at 682-3240**

**Volunteers to help with future construction**  
**starting next spring for our Greater Blessings**  
**projects and new home—both supervisors and**  
**other helpers.**

**Volunteers to help with our newsletter mailing**  
**workshop usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month**  
**from 9 AM for about 2 hours at St. Rita's Parrish**  
**Hall in Kellogg; and also to hand deliver them**  
**throughout the valley at restaurants, waiting**  
**rooms, etc.—choose one part of the Valley.**

**However, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday,**  
**mailing will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in December—**  
**Dec 8<sup>th</sup>.**