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Volunteer workers gather to lend hand

Elderly woman gets 'new house'

By Anne Sullivan
, The News-Herald

TAYLOR — Doris Duplessie has a nearly new house, thanks to the efforts of a group of volunteer contractors.

The volunteers are members of the Western Wayne Plumbing and Mechanical Association, which received last month's Citizen Volunteer Award from the city.

The association was recognized for its work to renovate the house owned by Duplessie, an 82-year-old widow, as part of the group's Richter Day celebration.

Each year, the group selects one needy person and replaces fixtures in and makes repairs to the house.

The labor and materials are donated, said Charley Johnson, president of the association and owner of Alert Plumbing.

"We tear it apart and put it back together," he said. "We're replacing all of the fixtures in her house. She'll get a new toilet, a new bathtub faucet, a new vanity and sink, a new kitchen sink and faucet, a new laundry tub and faucet, a new water heater and a new sump pump, plus some other miscellaneous repairs."

The Western Wayne Plumbing and Mechanical Association is a group of professionals and business owners. Eight companies came to Duplessie's house.

"Everybody is a master plumber or a journeyman," Johnson said. "Everybody knows what he's doing. They get in there and get it done."

Richter Day shows there are good and honest contractors, Johnson said.

Richter Day was named after Fred Richter, a member of the association who started a goodwill day in the 1960s. It was named in memory of him after he died.

Participating companies were: Alert Plumbing of Taylor, A. Burton & Sons of Garden City, Lane Plumbing of Garden City, JC Hot Water Service of Livonia, Cameron Plumbing of Plymouth, GSA Water Heater Service of

Westland, Richard Plumbing of Belleville and American Leak Detection of Dexter.

Retired plumber Bill Parmentier of Plymouth also volunteered to make renovations and repairs.

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