

YOUR HOMEOWNER

Your homeowner is chosen with the following guidelines in mind: He or she must live in and own the home, be elder or disabled and on a low fixed income. The home is to be single story, wood sided, in need of exterior repair and painting, and located within a neighborhood that has been targeted for work.

Each homeowner is visited by VHRP staff. During this meeting, an application is filled out and signed. In this process, we learn about family members who live in Houston who would be able to join with your crew to help paint or do other things they are capable of doing. A program information letter is reviewed with the homeowner. We give them a copy so they remember the dates of the workdays. This letter specifically spells out "able bodied relatives of the homeowner are expected to help!"

The information about the homeowner is in your assignment package. This package is also designed to be shared with your volunteers to help them understand the homeowners circumstances (age, income, illness or disability, dog's name, etc.)

Most homeowners are very appreciative of the work you will do, and will show that appreciation to the volunteers. Sometimes, a homeowner may be shy and overwhelmed by a lot of strangers, ill, or just weary. For that reason, it is a very good idea to get your volunteers to begin visiting with the homeowner at the beginning of the day to break down any fears and to show their interest in the homeowners well being. If your volunteers visit and get to know that person it will make their experience much more rewarding.

If, however, a problem arises with the homeowner and/or relatives, please call Bill Eyerman with RT Houston (at the warehouse on work Saturdays). He will be glad to assist in whatever way possible. You will find that the homeowner is, in most cases, extremely grateful for the improvements you have made and appreciates your kindness and consideration. Your volunteers, too, will derive great satisfaction from the relationship they have developed with the homeowner and for the task they have accomplished and perhaps a new relationship with co-workers, new acquaintances, etc.

Often, neighbors of your homeowner will stop by to ask how they can have their house repaired. We have homeowner applications and information sheets for you to give them. You may pick these up at the warehouse at the crew leader meeting and during April and October segments.