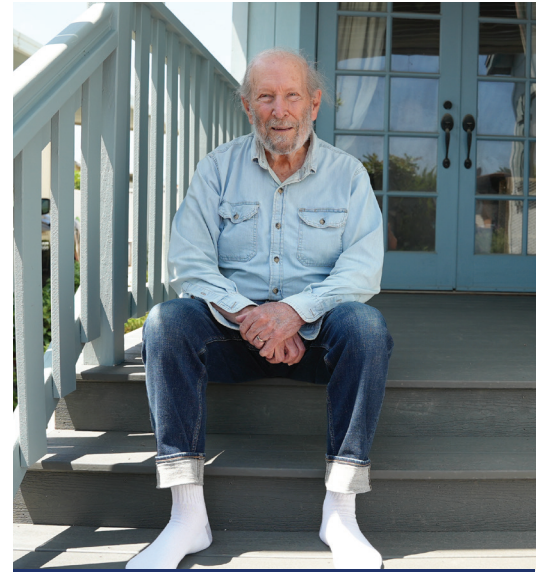


November, 2023

It was a simple question—only six words!—but the answer turned out to be far from simple.

Al had applied to Habitat Santa Barbara’s home repair program for help with the exterior of his mobile home in Carpinteria: his porch was crumbling, there was wood rot on the exterior trim, and his landscaping was overgrown.



Al sitting safely on his newly rebuilt porch.

The park where he has owned his home for 35 years had sent him multiple site violation notices, requiring him to repair his failing porch, and clean up his yard. Although he owned his home, he was at risk of being evicted from the mobile home park unless he could find a way to make the repairs. At nearly 92 years old and with an income of less than \$20,000, he needed help. Habitat staff and volunteers visited his home and told him he would receive help with his porch and landscaping. And then, that question:

“Is there anything else you need?”

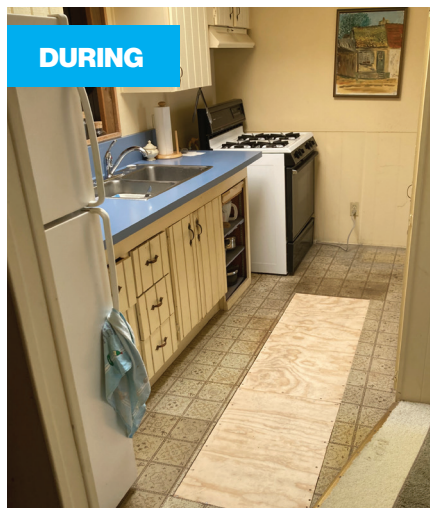
Al had **a hole in his kitchen floor that was threatening to break through the subfloor to the ground below**. He cooked and washed dishes while balancing on a piece of wood and a cutting board, laid end to end, so that he wouldn’t risk falling through. He was so eager to fix his front porch in response to the

(Continued on back)



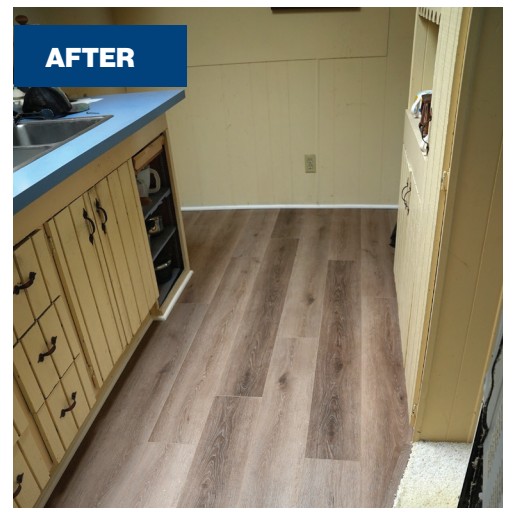
BEFORE

Plywood laid across kitchen floor to prevent Al from falling through.



DURING

Floor with infrasture replacement.



AFTER

Newly rebuilt floor is safe once again.



Habitat Santa Barbara rebuilt Al's front porch.



housing violation notifications, that until Habitat asked about his other needs—he didn't think it was possible.

Those six words.

After a lifetime of service to others, Al found himself in a position where he was the one who needed help.

Al is a Korean War veteran. He worked in the mental health field in Santa Barbara for years. He and his late wife Jan raised their family in Santa Barbara and their children attended Santa Barbara High. He even met President Carter, Habitat's most famous volunteer!

Habitat Santa Barbara's home repair program helps low-income homeowners like Al every day.

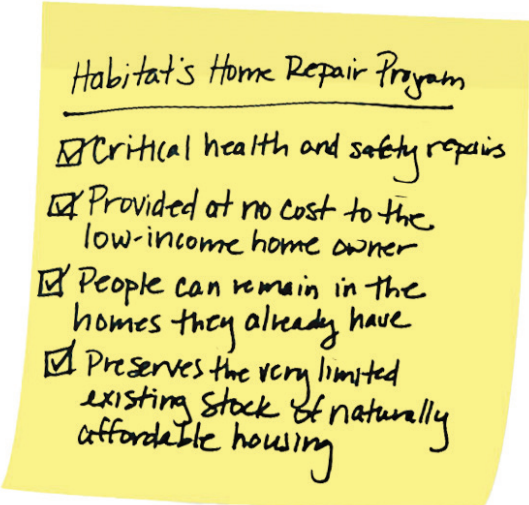
Sadly, Al's story is not unique. Thousands of low-income individuals and families right here in Santa Barbara's South County are living with an unmet housing need which may result in an imminent health and safety risk and housing instability—despite owning their homes. According to U.S. Census data for South County, among low-income homeowners, more than 65% have at least one crucial issue in their home.

Habitat Santa Barbara got to work and helped Al with the many layers of maintenance and repairs he needed: pest remediation, replacing the porch, and building a new kitchen floor. Finally, a team of volunteers was brought in to assist with weeding, trimming, painting, and landscaping. "The volunteers were great," Al recalled. "I had no idea what to expect but they were just wonderful people."

Now, with the porch and floors replaced, Al is looking forward to his 92nd birthday and his daily walks on the beach.

Would you join us in providing critical home repairs to low-income neighbors like Al, and make a gift today? With a gift to Habitat Santa Barbara, you can support our year-round home repair program, and be the reason why someone can stay in their home safely, surrounded by a lifetime of memories.

Thank you for bringing hope to your neighbors, and giving us the privilege of asking life-changing questions.



A volunteer paints Al's newly rebuilt porch.



Habitat volunteers at Al's mobile home village following a tornado last spring.

Jessica Wishan
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