

## Faith & Values : Making a difference : in our community

# Broadmoor assists with Krista Kottage project

## Donations for new home accepted today

By Becky Hathcock  
Special to The Herald

**CANTON** | Ten years ago, Morris Taylor was the victim of a shooting accident that left him a paraplegic.

"I was living in Milwaukee and was riding with my landlord," he said. "We were drinking and he got into it with someone."

"It was over nothing really. He dropped me off at home and went to get a gun to deal with this guy."

Taylor went home and went to sleep only to be awakened by his girlfriend who told him his landlord was outside in his truck.

"I went outside and he was asleep in his truck," said Taylor. "I tried to wake him up, and I'll never forget, he mumbled something."

Trying to take the keys out of the truck to prevent him from driving, Taylor startled his friend into semi consciousness and was then shot in the neck at close range with a .38 caliber pistol.

"It was an accident," he said. "When you wake up someone who has been drinking, they don't know they are in the world."

The shooting left Taylor a T-4 paraplegic, paralyzed from the chest down.

"I lived, but from that day forward everything went downhill," he said. "I couldn't work, and I couldn't get disability."

Taylor, who had been a handyman in Wisconsin, returned to live with his mother in a small deteriorating home in Florida.

Ten years later, members of Mad-CAAP (Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty) discovered the family living in poverty, without heat or air conditioning, with limited plumbing and floors that were rotten.

"Mr. (Harold) Waldrop visited us and was helping my mother repair the house when he told me

about the Krista Kottage project," said Taylor. "I told him I was interested, so he went to the church."

"It must have been God sent, because he called me back the next day to say they would help."

Waldrop, who built the first Krista Kottage for his daughter, Krista, who has Down syndrome, is a six-year volunteer with Mad-CAAP.

"We were working on houses repairing them for people when it hit me that we could get them out instead."

Taylor's new house on Sugar Hill Drive in the Saw Mill Quarters of Canton is the 15th Krista Kottage to be built by Mad-CAAP, which partners with local churches and civic groups to provide repair services or homes to families in "the worst situations."

"There are more than 1,000 families like this in Madison County alone," said Waldrop. "That's staggering."

"We've repaired 50 houses this year and in the 15 houses we've built, there are 95 kids getting out of bad houses to somewhere where they can be warm and take a bath."

Krista Kottages are simply constructed out of basic materials for a cost of \$22,000, said Corine Frizell, director of Single Adult Ministries at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, which assisted in the project as part of their community outreach program.

"One of our men described it as a deer camp," said Frizell. "But it is clean and well done. It's very utilitarian."

Volunteer labor and donated furnishings will help to meet the needs of the family, she said.

Broadmoor has been collecting new and used furniture and home items since Nov. 8.

With a final donation drive today from 9-11 a.m., Frizell said

the church hopes to have the house completely furnished in time for Taylor to move in for Thanksgiving.

Volunteer crews of 25-30 people have been building the house since Nov. 13, said Tommy Jarrett, associate pastor.

"It is amazing to see men and women of all ages doing things I never dreamed they would do," said Jarrett.

On the building site, women are on ladders doing electrical work or installing ceiling fans, caulking and sweeping the sawdust stirred up by men finishing the interior trim and electrical work.

Another crew installs decking on the roof that will be shingled by the end of the week.

Gary Anderson, another Mad-CAAP volunteer, oversees "the organized chaos" in order for the project to be completed in 10 days.

"We've had really good help," he said of the rotating crews that have done all of the work.

Because Taylor is handicapped, a few modifications have been added, including a wheelchair ramp leading to a covered porch and lowered windows so he can see out.

Taylor said he cannot find the words to express his gratitude.

"When I got shot, I felt like nothing was ever going to change," he said. "But prayer changes things. You have to wait on the Lord."

"I want to say thanks for the kindness and the understanding, and answering my prayers. I hope I live up to the expectations of the people who made my dreams come true. They are in my prayers and I hope I will stay in theirs. I'm thankful."

Broadmoor volunteers will be giving away 350 Thanksgiving turkeys to the needy today at 10 a.m. at the Mad-CAAP office.



Jesse Worley/The Herald

Dan Burt (left) of Lake Caroline and George Pate of Madison measure lumber while working on Broadmoor Baptist Church of Madison's Krista Kottage project on Sugar Hill Drive in the Sawmill Quarters in Canton.