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## INKSTER ELDER GETS NEW RAMP TO FREEDOM

**INKSTER, MI** Daisy Williams, an 84-year-old, lifelong resident of Inkster, felt trapped in her home. Years earlier, a stroke had weakened her left arm and leg but eventually she learned to walk with the help of a cane. Recently, though, her right knee became swollen and unstable forcing a reluctant Ms. Williams into an electric wheelchair. I can still walk a little, drive my car, do a little grocery shopping, she said. But the three steps from her front door to her driveway were impossible to navigate without help.

Ms. Williams, who lives alone with regular visits from her children and grandchildren, needed a wheelchair-friendly ramp to her driveway -- but the \$2,600 cost was way beyond her budget. A relative mentioned the problem to fellow parishioner and Inkster Mayor Hilliard Hampton, a man of the people who is particularly passionate about helping the older adults he serves.



**“We have a large senior population in Inkster,” Mayor Hampton said. “They want to stay here in their homes as they get older. If an investment of time or money can alter the lives of our residents who are trapped in their homes, I’ll fight for it.”**

Mayor Hampton set a long set of wheels in motion. He contacted Inkster Senior Services who contacted The Senior Alliance (Area Agency on Aging 1-C) who contacted a new foundation created to help older adults in the Detroit area: The American House Foundation. In its first six months, the

AHF raised more than \$60,000, priding itself on making swift and generous grants to eligible recipients. Within weeks Ms. Williams request was approved and a check presented to Inkster Senior Services and Mayor Hampton at a recent council meeting. By July the ramp was built.



**Denise Champagne,  
Mayor Hilliard Hampton,  
Daisy Williams**

**"I feel like I can live again, go visit, run errands, take care of myself," a smiling Ms. Williams' said. "This ramp changes everything. I don't like to ask people for help if I don't have to. I want to do as much as I can for as long as I can."**



American House Foundation was created by American House Senior Living Residences to give back to the Detroit community through gifts that help older adults lead healthy, independent, productive lives. Seventy percent of all funds raised helps older adults purchase necessities such as lift chairs, diabetic shoes, grab bars, hot water heaters, prescriptions and even co-pays for chemotherapy treatment. The remaining 30% supports research in aging conducted at the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University. The AHF motto is *Resources for Today. Research for Tomorrow.*

AHF Coordinator Michelle Karamon joined Ms. Williams, Mayor Hampton and Denise Champagne of Inkster Senior Services recently for the official unveiling of the ramp. We're glad you like the ramp, Michelle told Ms. Williams. The smile on your face makes this all worthwhile.

**To learn about donating to the American House Foundation  
or how to apply for a grant, contact:**

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