



## #MyGivingStory

### ***The Promise of Community Action***



As a child, Quinton Croxton recalls visiting the house he now calls home, traveling with his mother from Baltimore to Greene County, Va., to visit his aunt who lived in the house at the time. Built in 1893, the house didn't have running water, and Mr. Croxton still remembers having to haul buckets of water inside the home. He also remembers how exciting it was on that first visit after indoor plumbing was installed and he no longer had to make the long trek to bring water inside.

Following a stint in the Army and an honorable discharge, Mr. Croxton decided to move to the family home that had since been passed down to his mother.

While cutting grass one day, a truck left the road and hit him, leaving him with a bad knee and nerve damage in his hand. Now 59 years old, Mr. Croxton is unable to work and lives on disability.

Earlier this year, Mr. Croxton realized that the plumbing in his home was beginning to fail, and he found himself in the same situation he was in when he visited the home as a child. Once again, he had to haul water from outside the house so that he could wash dishes and flush the toilet. He laughs when he recalls the time he ran the garden hose through the bathroom window and into the tub in an effort to take a makeshift shower. "Man, that was cold," he recalled with a chuckle. As the plumbing continued to leak, it took a toll on the flooring in the bathroom, eventually creating a hole in the floor that made it impossible for him to use the room at all.



After several months without water, Mr. Croxton heard about Skyline CAP's Emergency Home Repair Program and filled out an application. Mr. Croxton waited patiently for several months until Skyline could arrange to have the plumbing repairs completed to the tune of \$3,500 – a cost that he would have been unable to bear on his fixed income. But now a new problem emerged. What good is new plumbing if you don't have adequate fixtures to use it, or a floor you can walk across without fear of falling through to the ground below? Skyline's limited budget couldn't also cover the cost of making the necessary structural repairs to the bathroom. Fortunately, Paul Davis Restoration of Central Virginia has stepped in to repair the floors and walls and install new fixtures, including a new hot water tank, all at their own expense.

Once the repairs are completed, Mr. Croxton will no longer have to stay with friends in the next town over and can continue to live independently in his home. "It's a blessing," he said. "Now I can wash my dishes instead of eating off paper plates." And there won't be a need to shower with a garden hose!

This story has a happy ending, but there are dozens of stories like Mr. Croxton's in the three counties we serve in rural Virginia. The waiting list is long, with needs ranging from wheel chair ramps to new roofing. With limited funds that come from a handful of grants from private foundations, Skyline cannot respond to the needs as quickly as we would like. Oftentimes, the delay in making repairs results in more extensive damage that, in turn, costs more money to repair. Our hope is that we can raise more funds that will allow us to address problems more quickly and help more of our elderly and disabled citizens maintain their independence for as long as possible.