

## **A Week at Grace House by Pat Streett**

### **June 3rd Sunday**

Sharon and I along with Susan and Joe, started out from my house about 7am. It was smooth sailing until our stomachs said it was time to eat and met up with Bev, Tom, and Sandy at our favorite bbq place for lunch. Made a few stops, (gas, rest stops and grocery store) and arrived around 3:30 ish. Everyone unpacked and we were treated to a penne lasagna dinner prepared by Anita. Delicious! Because it was Jerry's Birthday, the honey bun cake was served for dessert. Not long after, the bunks were calling us and off to bed we went.

### **June 4th Monday**

Breakfast eaten and lunches packed, we set out to begin our first job. Arriving, we pitched our tent, set up chairs and tools. Susan plotted our course for the day and the steps were torn down. Next came the digging of the holes for the post that were needed. Started with 6. On this job we were blessed with a momma cat and her adorable baby kittens. Throughout the day our background music was the bellowing from the cows on the farm next store. When we finished up, the post were in, the stringers were done and some of the planks were down. On the way back to the mountain, some of us discovered the McFlurry at McDonald's. Pretty good! Home to showers and a pot roast dinner, made by yours truly! Anita surprised us with banana pudding for dessert. It wasn't long until the bunks called us back to them.

### **June 5th Tuesday**

The morning routine of breakfast and lunches was finished and off we went to the site. A friend of the Boyd's (Shelby) joined us for the day. We started the demolition of half of the porch that was rotten, (made of particle board) and putting down most of the planks on the ramp. Everyone was fascinated with Susan's new tool, the Nestor Bar. It made quick work of ripping up boards. Returning to our home for the week, (after a stop at Mickey D's), Susan prepared a spaghetti, garlic bread and salad dinner that everyone enjoyed. Preparation for bed came quickly and we all headed for the bunks.

### **June 6th Wednesday**

As usual breakfast was eaten and lunches packed. Arriving at site we proceeded to rip out the remaining boards from the porch. It was discovered that the stringers were not correct and had to be supported with some concrete blocks. That finished, we proceeded to put down the planks on the porch. A few adjustments were made on the ramp, like figuring out the odd figured

boards to complete the angle needed to follow the existing sidewalk. Next the railings needed to be cut and attached. Time to head to McD's again and then up the mountain. Tonight, Violetta, Anita's mom, fixed us dinner. We had chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes and green bean from her garden. For dessert we had momma's version of banana pudding. After filling our stomachs, the rest of the body said it was time for bed. It's a good thing we are doing all this work during the day to balance the amount of food we are eating!

### **June 7th. Thursday**

No surprise here. Breakfast and lunches packed. Headed out to finish up at the home of mom Larinda, daughter Allie, and nephew Weston. All the little things, like finishing the railings, putting down cement at the base of the ramp, so there is no drop from the last board, and cleaning up. Job number 1 done! Lunch eaten. SO! On to a new job. We met Pansy and her daughter Ann. She had a ramp that was not planked but just some plywood. Not good. Susan pulled out her Nestor Bar and in no time flat that plywood was history. The stringers were fine, so it was just a matter of putting down the planks. Bev made short work of cutting the correct size planks and everyone took turns screwing them down. Job number 2 done! No stop at McD's! Headed straight home for showers. Tonight we feast at our yearly trip to Susan's favorite Mexican restaurant. Everyone filled to the brim and because we had finished both jobs, it was time to pack up in order to leave in the morning. Later that evening we received a message that Larinda was nervous about how sturdy the railings were on her ramp, so Joe, Sharon, Susan and I volunteered to return on Friday morning and add some more post to shore up the railings.

### **June 8th Friday**

After breakfast everyone said their goodbyes and finished up packing their vehicles. Our little group headed to job number 1 and by 10:30 had the four extra post set and the railings were extra sturdy! Joe joined Sharon and me for the ride home, and Susan stayed for a board meeting the following week. All took their time driving home and were where they wanted to be at night's end. All safe and sound and God's work completed!