

# LETTERS OF SUPPORT

(Letters from organizations recognizing the work of the Dallas Ramp Project and offering their support and encouragement to the Texas Ramp Project.)



## KING OF GLORY

6411 LBJ Freeway  
Dallas, TX 75240-6406  
972-661-9435  
email: office@kingofglory.com  
www.kingofglory.com  
Fax 972-386-8386

*A Lutheran Christian Community*

February 27, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

By copy of this letter I would ask that you provide all possible assistance to support the work of the Texas Ramp Project. For about 10 years the work of the Dallas Ramp Project has been an important ministry within King of Glory and certainly to those clients in Dallas who are served by this outreach effort. Nearly 2000 families have benefited from the free wheelchair ramps provided by these volunteers and every healthcare agency in Dallas has availed itself of this service.

Now the Texas Ramp Project is in the process of replicating this service across the state of Texas by building similar organizations in other cities. The need is no less in those cities and now, with your help, free ramps will be within reach of hundreds of clients lacking safe access throughout Texas every year. Our congregation is strongly supporting this work and I hope that you will do so as well.

Blessings,

Pastor Terry Germann

TG/bdh



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101 • Internet: bishop@elca.org  
Telephone 773.380.2600 or 800.638.3522 • Telefax 773.380.2977

Office of the  
Presiding Bishop

October 25, 2006

Mr. John Laine  
Texas Ramp Project  
Box 832065  
Richardson, TX 75083

Open Letter to Lutheran Congregations in Texas:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am well aware of the Texas Ramp Project's efforts in developing community volunteer bases across the state of Texas in providing free wheelchair ramps for those unable to afford the cost of construction. I encourage your support and personal involvement in this worthwhile project. You will be providing freedom for individuals who are homebound and help for their families in caring for their loved ones, as the homebound receive safe and accessible entry to and from their homes.

You will be serving your neighbor as you give of yourself, your time and your resources.

May God richly bless your life and witness.

Living in God's amazing grace,

Mark S. Hanson  
Presiding Bishop

MSH:glw

Cc: Bishop Kevin Kanouse

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*Living in God's amazing grace*



## THE SENIOR SOURCE

SENIOR CITIZENS  
OF GREATER DALLAS

September 19, 2006

Mr. John Laine  
Dallas Ramp Project  
Box 832006  
Richardson, TX 75083

Dear Mr. Laine:

I just want you to know how much we appreciate your organization. Dallas Ramp Project is such a valuable asset in our community. We are so grateful for the service that is offered. The older adults that we help through our Elder Support Program have many problems. We often get calls from older adults about problems they have getting out of the house. Some have health problems and have to use a walker or wheelchair. Others may rely on wheelchairs due to broken bones. They can maneuver inside of the home, but walking long distances is out of the question. Getting into and out of the house can be a very risky endeavor.

Our clients want to stay home as long as possible and having a ramp can mean that someone gets to stay home. Many of our clients do not have the money to move to assisted living. A ramp is one of the ways to make a client's home more like assisted living.

One of the services that we offer at The Senior Source is to help a caller navigate the web of resources in our community. We make calls on behalf of our clients. We want to make sure that our clients get the help that they need. Dallas Ramps Project has that same standard of service. Your turnaround time, especially for someone who is being discharged from a hospital, is outstanding. The home visit for the assessment when the person is living in the home really gives the client a feeling of comfort and a sense of control. Thanks for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Lue Taff

Director, Elder Support Program  
The Senior Source



STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR

February 20, 2007

John Laine  
The Texas Ramp Project  
Box 832065  
Richardson, Texas 75083

Dear John:

The Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities is excited about the contributions Dallas Ramps has made to people with disabilities in the Dallas area and are thrilled to learn of "Texas Ramps" – the expansion to other Texas cities. We are pleased to see such a service, as we get many calls from people needing ramps who cannot afford them, and have few resources to share. Individuals receiving ramps gain personal freedom and are able to live at home with fewer social services. The ramps provide personal dignity and increased quality of life.

We also believe The Texas Ramp Project works efficiently, and effectively involves community volunteers. We have enjoyed working with you and believe that our Committee and many local committees associated with our program will enjoy interfacing as The Texas Ramp Project expands. As our population ages over the next twenty years, the need for this service will increase greatly.

Please let us know if there are ways our Committee can support your valuable work across Texas.

Sincerely,

  
Pat Pound, Executive Director



1349 Empire Central • Suite 400 • Dallas, TX 75247 • 214-871-5065 • 214-871-7442 (FAX)

January 8, 2006

Mr. John Laine  
Dallas Ramp Project  
Box 832006  
Richardson, TX 75083-2006

SUBJECT: DALLAS RAMP PROJECT

Dear Mr. Laine,

We are pleased to write this letter of support as you work to expand the Dallas Ramp Project throughout the State of Texas. The seniors in the Dallas area have benefited from this program for well over 15 years. The Dallas Area Agency on Aging staff and Access Center for the Elderly affiliates have referred clients to your group and are excited about the prospect of you sharing your program concept and skills so that more seniors will reap the benefits and ease their access problems.

There is a growing need for projects like the Dallas Ramp Project where volunteers and donated materials are used to address accessibility problems of seniors. We fully support your efforts and those of the volunteers who year after year provide this very worthwhile service to deserving seniors. Please let us know how we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Monita McGhee, Director  
Dallas Area Agency on Aging



CITY OF DALLAS

January 10, 2006

Mr. John Laine  
Dallas Ramp Project  
Box 832006  
Richardson, TX 75083-2006

**Re: Dallas Ramp Project**

Dear Mr. Laine:

I began working for the Office of Senior Affairs, City of Dallas four years ago. At that time I was introduced to the Ramp Project, in that I would assume the responsibility of completing applications from clients who were in need of a ramp.

To my surprise, daily I received caller after caller requesting a ramp. The immensity was overwhelming; I had no idea that there was such a tremendous need in the community.

Daily, I recognize that; if it were not for you and the Ramp Project, I have no conceivable idea as to what the majority of my clients would do. What a worthwhile and needy task you and your volunteers have undertaken.

The City of Dallas, completely supports the efforts of your calling, and fully supports you in your attempt to extend this needy service to other areas, as I frequently receive callers requesting ramps from areas outside of Dallas.

If we can be of assistance in expediting this matter, please let us know.

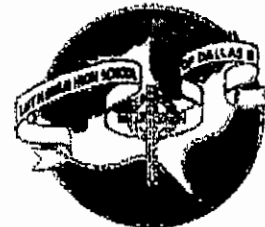
Best regards,

Joann Mendenhall, Senior Case Manager  
Office of Senior Affairs

C: Michael Crawford  
Constance Smith

# LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF DALLAS

8494 STULTS ROAD • DALLAS, TEXAS 75243 • 214-349-8912



February 1, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

PATRICIA KLEKAMP  
PRINCIPAL/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Two years ago Lutheran High School of Dallas met with key leaders of various non-profit service agencies to see how we could engage our student body in sustained efforts of community service. John Laine represented the Dallas Ramps project in that meeting and what a blessing that has been for us. Since that time our students have been on 9 full-day builds, building over thirty ramps with the guidance of the men from Dallas Ramps.

Building ramps gives our students instant gratification for the work they have done as they meet the recipient and see them come down the ramp for the first time. Young people are being taught skills of carpentry but more importantly they are being taught life skills of the importance of helping someone else. Students hear the stories of how the person has not been able to leave their home easily, sometimes for a prolonged period of time. Not only have they received gratification for their efforts they have also been blessed by working with men who are excellent mentors. We have sent a variety of students on the projects as it has become a favorite project to the point of student leaders allocating *Beyond My Front Door* funds to help buy materials to build the ramps.

Students built four ramps on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and one student interviewed an African-American woman receiving a ramp about her perceptions of The Civil Rights Movement. This was another extension of the learning that is occurring through this project. It was very eye-opening for the student and for our entire student body as he shared the story.

Dallas Ramps is a WIN-WIN situation. I cannot say enough about the blessings we have witnessed not only for the ramp recipient but also for the workers. I hope that Dallas Ramps is favorably considered for the grant and I would be happy to provide any additional information that might be helpful.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Lindsay".

Kay Lindsay  
Guidance Director  
Lutheran High School of Dallas

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE: January 12, 2006

MEMO TO: Mr. John Laine  
Dallas Ramp Project  
Box 832006  
Richardson, TX 75083-2006

FROM: Suanne Durham, Manager  
People Helping People  
214-670-7323

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suanne".

RE: Dallas Ramp Project

The City of Dallas Housing Department's People Helping People Program has been partnering with the Dallas Ramp Project for twelve (12) years and it is indeed a pleasure to write this letter of support as you continue to expand your ability to serve disabled homeowners across the state of Texas.

Without this valuable service, the People Helping People Program (PHP) would not have been able to sustain its ability to refer clients who do not qualify for city funding. Each year varies based on funding capacity, but on average PHP refers 20+ ramps to the Dallas Ramp Project. These clients otherwise would have gone without as no other resources are available in Dallas. Cost has also become a factor that limits the City's ability to produce the quantity of ramps it used to. But, Dallas Ramp, through its outreach, planning and fundraising, has become the premiere program that other's should work to tailor their program.

We fully support the efforts of the volunteers who year after year provide this important service to elderly and disabled homeowners and encourage your efforts. Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Jane Hunley, MSSW, LMSW  
Director, Geriatrics  
Parkland Health & Hospital System

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Dallas Ramps project. This community service has proven to provide our frail, elderly clients with an important, and often difficult to access, service that allows many to remain in their own homes.

As you are aware, an overwhelming number of our seniors express a strong preference to remain in their homes as long as possible. Limited mobility is one of the factors that sometimes compromise their ability to remain in their homes. Access to a service that provides materials and builds a sturdy and safe ramp can allow an individual who must use a wheelchair for mobility, to leave his/her home to seek medical care, food, social and activity services.

In our Geriatric Clinic, Senior HouseCalls program, and Senior Outreach Services programs, our social workers and medical personnel have come to rely on the Dallas Ramps project for the provision of safe and sturdy ramps for our wheelchair bound elders.

I am writing in support of an expansion of this valuable service in our communities.

Please contact me if further information would be helpful or specific case examples.

Sincerely,  
Jane Hunley

Mr. John Laine  
Dallas Ramp Project  
Box 832006  
Richardson, TX 75083-2006

Subject: Dallas Ramp Project

Dear Mr. Laine:

I would like to say thank you to you and your helpers with the Dallas Ramp Project. The work they have done for my patient's has been very beneficial and the quality excellent.

Without the use of a wheelchair ramp our patients must either call an ambulance service or try to move down steps with their wheelchairs. These are either expensive or dangerous solutions to their access problems that can be eliminated once a ramp is installed.

We fully support the efforts of the volunteers who year after year provide this important service to our patients and encourage your efforts to spread these efforts across the state of Texas. Please let us know how we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,  
David Self  
Texas Dept of Aging & Disability Services



**North Dallas**  
Rehabilitation Hospital

1-19-06

Mr. John Laine  
Dallas Ramp Project  
Box 832006  
Richardson, TX 75083-2006

Subject: Dallas Ramp Project

Dear Mr. Laine:

For many years our patients have benefited from the services provided by the Dallas Ramp Project in easing their access problems once they return home. Without the use of a wheelchair ramp our patients must either call an ambulance service or try to move down steps with their wheelchairs. These are either expensive or very dangerous solutions to their access problems that can be eliminated once a ramp is installed. As a social worker, it is my responsibility to discharge patients to a safe environment. Many times, I cannot do that without the support of the ramp project.

I fully support the efforts of the volunteers who year after year provide this important service to our patients and encourage your efforts to spread these efforts across the state of Texas. Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patty Crow, LMSW".

Patty Crow, LMSW  
Director of Social Services  
North Dallas Rehabilitation Hospital



3505 Gaston Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75246  
(214) 820-9300

Mr. John Laine  
Dallas Ramp Project  
Box 832006  
Richardson, TX 75083-2006

Subject: Dallas Ramp Project

Dear Mr. Laine:

For more than 10 years our patients have benefited from the services provided by the Dallas Ramp Project in easing their access problems once they have returned to their homes. Without the use of a wheelchair ramp, our patients must either call an ambulance service or try to move down steps with their wheelchairs. These are either expensive or dangerous solutions to their access problems that can be eliminated once a ramp is installed.

We fully support the efforts of the volunteers who year after year provide this important service to our patients and encourage your efforts to spread these efforts across the state of Texas. Please let us know how we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carrie Robinson", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Carrie Robinson, RN, CRRN  
Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation  
Manager  
Social Work & Care Coordination  
3505 Gaston Ave.  
Dallas, TX 75246  
214-820-9303  
carriero@baylorhealth.edu