

**LABOR OF LOVE**  
**United Way**  
**of Eastern LaSalle County**  
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## F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

### **United Way Labor of Love** **Accepting Applications for Home Assistance** *Application Deadline August 23, 2010*

United Way of Eastern LaSalle County is accepting Labor of Love applications for repairs and maintenance on homes owned by low-income homeowners and homes owned by military families of deployed personnel. The deadline to submit an application is Monday, July 23, 2010.

For the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, United Way's volunteer-based Labor of Love program will help low-income homeowners repair their homes at no cost to them. The program works in partnership with eleven area communities to rehabilitate the homes of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly, disabled, veterans, and families with children. The program was expanded in 2003 to help spouses of active duty military personnel keep up their homes while their loved ones are away. "Our goal, explained Jim Conness, I.B.E.W. Local 176, is to help individuals and families remain in their homes, living independently, warm, safe and dry."

Labor of Love repairs are provided at no charge to people who own their home, but who, because of income or physical limitations, are unable to do the repairs themselves and cannot cover the costs of hiring the work done. To be eligible for Labor of Love assistance consideration, applicants must:

- Own and live in their home, with no plans to vacate or sell the home for a period of at least two years;
- The home must be located within Eastern LaSalle County, specifically: Dayton, Grand Ridge, Harding, Leland, Marseilles, Naplate, Norway, Ottawa, Seneca, Serena, Sheridan, and Wedron;
- Sign a homeowner agreement, release, and waiver;
- Have the home insured under a homeowner's policy, and
- Meet income eligibility requirements; no greater than 50% of the median annual income as determined by HUD.
- Military families must provide a copy of military orders or active duty ID Card. All homes owned by military families of deployed personnel will be considered.

Almost all the work is done in one day, which traditionally takes place, rain or shine, the first Saturday in October. This year's Labor of Love is set for October 2. An estimated 500 volunteers, from all walks of life and all skill levels, will come together to tackle leaky roofs, broken stairs, peeling paint, faulty plumbing and wiring, unruly yards, dirty and drafty windows, and other weatherization and home-safety repair projects. Repair projects are planned and supervised by professional trades people, contractors and House Captains who generously donate their time and skills.

Labor of Love applications are available at Bridges Community Center, 221 W. Etna Road, Ottawa; the drive-up windows at First National Bank of Ottawa, 300 W. Madison Street, 2771 N. Columbus Street, and 601 State Street (all Ottawa); Ottawa Savings Bank, 925 LaSalle Street; and Twin Oaks Savings Bank, 125 W. Bluff Street, Marseilles; First National Bank of Grand Ridge, 105 W. Main, Grand Ridge, and First Midwest Bank of Seneca, 224 N. Main Street, Seneca. Labor of Love applications for Military families are available only at United Way of Eastern LaSalle County, 1400 LaSalle Street, Ottawa. All applications are to be returned to the United Way office by Monday, August 23. No applications will be accepted after August 23.

Labor of Love repairs are made possible through corporate and community donations, memorials, a weatherization grant from the Warm Neighbors Foundation, and a Community Outreach grant from Exelon Nuclear LaSalle Station - - Labor of Love's Signature Sponsor for the past eight years.

Last year seven hundred volunteers improved 38 homes, including 4 Friendship House residences for disabled adults.

For more information about Labor of Love, contact United Way of Eastern LaSalle County at (815) 434-4003 or [unitedwayelc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:unitedwayelc@sbcglobal.net)