

Realtors building Habitat partnership

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Habitat for Humanity of Iredell County has joined forces with the Charlotte Regional Realtor Association to renovate local homes.

The Housing Opportunity Foundation, the charitable arm of the association, is sponsoring a day of home makeovers.

The association has set a goal of completing minor renovations to 30 homes in Mecklenburg and Iredell counties on Friday, April 24.

"It's a real blessing for people in this community," Scott Loudermelt, executive director of Iredell's Habitat, said. "There are so many people in our community living in places they shouldn't be."

Many people in the community are forced to choose paying for medicine and other living expenses over paying for the upkeep of their home.

The deadline for homeowners to apply is Monday, Feb. 16. Applications can be picked up at the Habitat office on Shelton Avenue.

Realtors Care Day will focus on exterior repairs, including roofing, landscaping, painting, handicap ramps and more.

Habitat is helping the association reach out to the Iredell community by identifying 12 homes that need repair through the program, Brush with Kindness.

Homeowners who fall below 60 percent of the median income and need assistance with home repairs are asked to apply.

Funds for the Brush with Kindness program dried up in the fall, so Habitat had to stop the program.

The alliance with Charlotte Regional Realtors Association was a natural partnership.

About 300 Realtors will do the renovations, but the community is asked to make in-kind donations, said Joe Rempson, the chairman of Realtors Care Day.

Rempson said this project helps Realtors serve the communities where they work.

In the past, the association gave away a home each year to a family, but the association refocused its efforts in order to help a broader array of families.

"Our hope is there are at least 30 families or persons whose lives are improved through their house and that a burden is relieved in their lives," Rempson said.