

## **PROJECT AVE C**

In 2005 a boy lost his way. He was working third shift and trying to go to high school during the day. He was a student at NWHS but made a decision to drop out. He got a job and with his income, he bought a home - a home on Ave C. He later got his act together and went back to school. On May 26, 2007 he graduated with a high school diploma from Phoenix. However, he did not get to walk across the stage to get his earned diploma because he decided to serve his country. What would have been his graduation day was his first day at boot camp with the Marine Corps.

While in the Marine Corps he served two tours to Afghanistan. Each tour was seven months back-to-back. His first tour started in September 2011 and his second began July 2012. This boy was one of the lucky ones. Meaning... he came back in one physical piece. He continued to serve until November 11, 2015. In between he married and they had three children. Later, the family moved back to Dalton.

Unfortunately when he came home, he faced a big disappointment. The foundation of his home had literally started to sink into the ground. Assessing the situation, he met with multiple contractors - all of which had the same conclusion, "It has to be torn down and you have to start over".

Now fast forward to present day! He goes to school full time on his GI Bill. His wife also works a full time job. They tried to refinance with a renovation loan as they felt this was the only way they could start over. They were not able to get the much needed loan. Now he and his wife with their three kids have to live in an apartment. They not only have to pay for the apartment but also the mortgage on a home that they cannot live in.

It is heartbreaking that someone who served our country came home to a house that was deteriorating and is inhabitable. It is even-more-so heartbreaking due to the fact that they tried to do it right and couldn't qualify for a loan. This person made a commitment to our country and it would be wonderful if our community could make a commitment to help him and his family. With his permission, this story is written in hopes of bringing a community together to help (Sargent) Bradley Ramirez and his family by building them a new home. Several local

organizations have been contacted and we believe they are willing to help. Some non-monetary donations have been secured from some of our local organizations. We are now reaching out to you as a community to raise funds to build this home. Monetary donations can be made out to the American Legion. Please note on the memo line of your check Project Ave C. No amount is too small and all will be going to a great cause. Please consider making a donation and/or help by volunteering on the build. As a community, let's say thank you to one of our local servicemen.

For more information contact: 706-226-5120 or Nancy Green 256-990-2448; Donations can be mailed to: American Legion Post 112, PO Box 932, Dalton, GA 30722-0932.