

RAMP IT UP

Drive down most any road in the County and you're likely to see a stick-built wooden ramp provided to those in need by Pamlico County Senior Services through a program that has been ongoing for many years. Construction of a ramp can be vital to many, as often an accessible entry to housing is a requirement for patient discharge from rehab or care facilities.

Each year the Department of Senior Services, located in Alliance, receives Pamlico County funding earmarked for ramps. With the fiscal year beginning anew on July 1st, \$4,000 has once again been budgeted for ramps. That's the good news, but the bad news is that since the price of lumber has skyrocketed, a quote for one ramp alone has come in at \$2,000 - and there are 9 ramps currently requested.

Department of Senior Services Director Violet Ollison and Aging Services Coordinator Ann Hughes-Thomas do a wonderful job fielding requests for ramps and vetting those in need. Oriental resident Tim Balfour has volunteered for many years making site visits, designing each ramp with maximum slope requirements considered, and putting together materials lists for each job. Additionally, Tim has gathered crews of area men who have volunteered their time in the construction of many, many ramps over the years.

The stumbling block now is funding though - and we need your help. Whether an individual, a business or a church mission or outreach group, please consider making a donation - or even sponsoring the cost of an entire ramp - to help those on Senior Services' waiting list for ramp construction.

Pamlico County Foundation for the Aged, Inc. (PCFA) is the non-profit entity to whom Senior Services can turn when County funding is depleted, whether for things such as ramps, nutritional midday meals, fans in summer, heaters in winter, and emergency meals for hurricane preparedness. Consider a tax-deductible donation to "PCFA" (with "Ramp Donation" on the memo line) and mail to PCFA, PO Box 184, Alliance, NC 28509.

A sincere thank you for your consideration of a donation for ramp construction, and know that your contribution will be acknowledged. Send a note as well if you're interested in helping on ramp build crews, would like to make home deliveries of nutritional midday meals each month, or are interested in getting involved in the work of the Foundation for the Aged.

Jean White
PCFA Secretary/Treasurer