

# Weatherization Success Stories – 2025

Statewide Impact Through Community Action



## Community Action Partnership of North Dakota

### Weatherization Success Stories 2025

*Real Homes. Real Results. Statewide Impact.*



## **Region 2 – Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Ward Counties**

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### **Region 2 - Amber's 1900s Home Made Warm and Efficient in Towner**

When Amber purchased her 1900-era home in Towner, she knew it needed work, but she underestimated just how difficult it would be to keep warm and safe through a North Dakota winter. Missing insulation, broken doors and windows, and damaged ductwork caused cold air to pour into the home, making it uncomfortable and expensive to heat.

After reaching out to Community Action, a comprehensive Weatherization assessment revealed that insulation and air sealing, not cosmetic repairs, would have the greatest impact. Weatherization crews insulated the attic and perimeter, repaired ductwork, replaced two windows and a door, and secured a damaged storm window.

The results were immediate. Amber shared that her home is now significantly warmer and more comfortable, even during extreme cold. Having experienced the difference firsthand, she now refers many of her own clients to Weatherization, helping extend the impact of the program throughout her community.

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### **Region 2- A Warmer, Safer Home for Carmen in Bottineau**

Carmen lives alone in her 1895 home, a beautiful but aging house that had become increasingly difficult and expensive to keep warm. Like many older homes, hers had deteriorating windows and poor insulation in the attic and walls, allowing cold air to pour in during North Dakota winters. On a fixed income, every spike in her utility bill made it harder to stay afloat.

After receiving a weatherization outreach mailing, Carmen applied for assistance through Community Action. A home assessment showed that rotted windows and inadequate insulation were major contributors to her high energy costs and comfort issues. Through the Weatherization program, her home received new energy-efficient windows along with attic and wall insulation, sealing in warmth and improving the overall health and efficiency of the home.

The impact was immediate and meaningful. Carmen's home is now more comfortable, safer, and far more energy-efficient helping her stretch her limited income while staying

warm through the winter. But just as important as the physical improvements was the experience itself. After the work was completed, Carmen shared her gratitude in a heartfelt note:

*“Words cannot adequately express how grateful I am for the recent weatherization project that was completed at my property. The crew was very professional and the most polite individuals I have met in a long time. I am so pleased with the results of their work and am sure the effects will be felt this winter. The guys worked diligently and often under some very hot and uncomfortable conditions. I wish them all the best for their future projects and thank them, and Community Action, for the assistance and thoughtfulness.”*

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## **Region 2 - Keeping Donna’s Home Warm for Three Generations in Parshall**

Donna lives in Parshall in a home built in 1981, where she helps care for her four grandchildren. During North Dakota winters, the house had become extremely drafty and hard to keep warm. Large areas of the attic had little to no insulation, and cold air poured in through windows, doors, and even the unused chimney. To cope, Donna had been hanging blankets over windows and doors and stuffing bedding up the chimney just to keep the cold out.

After Donna reached out for help, the Weatherization team assessed her home and found significant heat loss in the attic and windows. Through the program, the attic was properly insulated and several windows were replaced, immediately improving the home’s ability to retain heat. For added safety, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors were installed to ensure the household was protected as well as warm.

The crew also went a step further by helping Donna with a long-standing problem she didn’t know how to fix: her chimney. It hadn’t been used in years, but it was still allowing cold air to flow straight into the house. The team showed her how to properly close it so it no longer leaked air eliminating the need for makeshift blankets and sleeping bags to block the draft.

Today, Donna’s home is warmer, safer, and far more comfortable for her and her grandchildren. What had once been a cold, drafty house is now a place where three generations can live more securely, without having to fight the North Dakota winter just to stay warm.

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## **Region 2 - Wayne’s Story: Making a Family Home Safe Again in Kramer**

Wayne lives in Kramer, North Dakota, in the home he inherited from his parents. The house, built in 1930, holds deep family meaning, but it had become increasingly unsafe. A badly leaking roof allowed snow and moisture to collect in the attic, which then dripped onto exposed and deteriorating electrical wiring, creating a serious safety hazard. Wayne relies on a small upholstery business he runs out of his basement as his primary source of income, but the condition of the home made it impossible for him to obtain insurance and put both his livelihood and his housing at risk.

Through the Community Action Weatherization Program, Wayne received critical repairs, including roof repair, electrical work, and window replacements. During the inspection process, staff also discovered a major plumbing issue that could have caused further damage and safety concerns, and that was addressed as well.

With these repairs completed, Wayne's home is now safe, dry, and structurally sound. The electrical hazards have been eliminated, the roof no longer leaks, and the plumbing system is secure allowing Wayne to live safely in his home and continue operating his small business from the basement. What was once a growing risk to his health, safety, and income is now a stable, livable home again, preserving both his family's legacy and his path to self-sufficiency.

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## Region 3 – Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette, and Towner Counties

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### Region 3 - Weatherization Supporting Safe Aging in Place in Edmore

Elaine, an elderly resident of Edmore, contacted Community Action after experiencing ongoing furnace problems and dangerously cold conditions in her home. Living alone in an older house built in 1953, she was struggling to stay warm and was increasingly concerned about her safety during the winter months.

Through the Weatherization program, Community Action conducted a full assessment and identified critical needs, including furnace replacement and insulation improvements. Weatherization services were provided, along with the installation of a new furnace and water heater, significantly improving the comfort, efficiency, and safety of Elaine's home.

As a result of these upgrades, Elaine is now able to remain safely in her home with reliable heat and improved energy efficiency. The work completed not only addressed immediate health and safety concerns but also helped ensure long-term housing stability.

Elaine shared that without this program, she does not believe she would have survived safely in her home. For her, Weatherization was not just about energy efficiency—it was about staying warm, safe, and independent. The connection built through this work mattered as much as the repairs themselves, reinforcing the role of Community Action as both a service provider and a trusted presence in the community.

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## Region 5 – Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, and Traill Counties

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### **Region 5 - Weatherization Makes a Home Safe Again in Tower City**

A homeowner living in a deteriorating mobile home faced serious safety and energy challenges: the belly board was torn out, ductwork was leaking, and several windows were broken or unable to open. The home was cold, drafty, and unsafe—especially with winter approaching.

Community Action’s Weatherization crew repaired the ductwork, rebuilt the belly to hold proper insulation, and replaced the failing windows. After the work, a blower door test showed the home’s air leakage had been reduced by more than half.

The homeowner called nearly every day to express his gratitude, sharing how much warmer, safer, and more livable the home felt. Weatherization made it possible for him to remain in his home and stay warm through the winter.

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### **Region 5 - Warmer, Safer Living Through Weatherization in Fargo**

A homeowner reached out after struggling with a cold, drafty home that couldn’t hold heat through North Dakota’s long winters. The attic lacked proper insulation, the foundation needed significant insulating work, and the home had extensive air leakage that made heating costs high and indoor temperatures uncomfortable.

The Weatherization crew installed new attic insulation, added foundation insulation, and performed extensive air sealing and Health & Safety measures throughout the home. After the work was completed, a blower door test showed remarkable results: the home’s CFM air leakage was reduced by half, dramatically improving energy efficiency and comfort.

The homeowner was thrilled with the transformation. She shared how much warmer, safer, and more comfortable her home felt; improvements she could feel immediately.

This is the value of Weatherization: a safer home, lower energy loss, and a warmer living environment that allows residents to stay stable and healthy in their communities.

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## **Region 5 - Weatherization Restores Comfort and Dignity in a Mobile Home in Milnor**

One of our clients was living in a mobile home that had significant insulation issues. The roof and floor both lacked proper insulation, and the belly board under the home was damaged to the point that new insulation could not be installed without repairs. The back door was also in poor condition, letting in drafts and contributing to heat loss.

The Weatherization crew first repaired and patched the belly of the home, creating a secure structure to hold new insulation. They then insulated both the roof and the floor, and replaced the failing back door to prevent further energy loss and improve safety. These improvements were critical for keeping heat inside and making the home livable during harsh North Dakota winters.

After the work was completed, the client sent a heartfelt note:

*“I want to say thank you to you and to the crew for all the work that was done on my trailer home. The foreman and his crew were very nice and very professional. They did a great job and even though it’s warm out right now, I can feel a really big difference in how my home is heating. I appreciate everything so much. It is very comforting to know I’m going to be comfortable and warm this winter.”*

The Weatherization work not only made the home safer and more energy-efficient - it restored peace of mind. This homeowner now enters winter with confidence, comfort, and the ability to remain stable in her home.

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## **Region 7 – Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, and Sioux Counties**

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### **Region 7- Marilyn’s Home Becomes Safe, Healthy, and Stable in Mandan**

Marilyn, a grandmother in Mandan, lives in her site-built home with her daughter and grandchildren. Over time, the home had developed serious safety and health risks, including a leaking roof, broken windows, failing heating and cooling systems, a rusty water heater, and poor insulation. These conditions made the home uncomfortable and hazardous, especially for a household with children and for Marilyn, who has health conditions that are worsened by heat.

Marilyn did not realize she qualified for assistance until she connected with Community Action’s Weatherization, Furnace, and Readiness programs. Once enrolled, staff conducted a full assessment and coordinated a comprehensive set of repairs. The home received a new furnace, water heater, and air conditioning system, roof repairs, three new windows, a new back door, and added attic insulation and ventilation. These upgrades eliminated safety hazards, stopped ongoing water damage, and significantly improved the home’s energy efficiency and indoor air quality.

Before the work was done, the leaky roof and broken windows threatened the long-term livability of the home. Today, Marilyn’s house is safer, more comfortable, and far more reliable for her family. With stable heating and cooling and a weather-tight structure, her health is more manageable and her grandchildren have a safer place to live.

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### **Region 7 - Angela’s Mobile Home Transformed Into a Safe, Energy-Efficient Place to Live**

Angela, a single parent in Bismarck, lives in a 1974 mobile home that had fallen into severe disrepair. The home had multiple holes in the floor, missing windows, doors that would not close properly, a leaking roof, and a toilet that was literally sinking into the floor. Her furnace and water heater were old and failing, and the home leaked so much air that her heating and electric bills were overwhelming. Angela, who is battling cancer and living on a very limited income, was struggling to keep her home habitable for herself and her adult son.

When Angela reached out to Community Action, she initially hoped to get help repairing just the floors and windows. Instead, staff were able to assess the full scope of the safety, health, and energy issues in the home and bring together support through the Weatherization, Furnace, and Readiness programs to address everything at once.

Angela's home received a rubber roof, new windows and doors, major floor repairs, attic, wall, and belly insulation, improved ventilation, a new toilet, and brand-new furnace and water heater. These repairs eliminated the dangerous floor openings, stopped water and air infiltration, and replaced failing combustion appliances with safe, reliable systems.

Before the work was done, the home was unsafe and unhealthy. The hole in the kitchen floor was so large that pets could fall through, windows were missing, and the cold air pouring in made heating costs unaffordable. Today, Angela has a home that is dry, safe, and energy efficient. She no longer has to worry about falling through the floor, losing heat through broken windows, or unsafe heating equipment.

Because of this investment, Angela can now remain in her home with stability and dignity while focused on her health and her family instead of constant housing emergencies.

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### **Region 7 - Heather Stays Warm and Safe in Underwood**

Heather, a single homeowner in Underwood, faced a frightening emergency when her furnace was shut down by MDU due to a dangerous gas leak. It was her first winter in North Dakota after moving from Oregon, and without heat, her home quickly became unsafe.

Heather had already been dealing with a difficult transition after moving to get away from serious personal challenges. When the furnace was shut off, the stress and fear of being without heat in winter added to an already overwhelming situation.

Community Action responded immediately. Staff drove out that same day, brought space heaters to keep Heather warm, helped her complete the application for assistance, and coordinated emergency furnace repair. A technician was able to fix the gas leak and restore her heat before the situation turned into a full-blown crisis.

By the end of the day, Heather's boiler was safely turned back on, the gas leak was resolved, and her home was warm again. What could have become a life-threatening emergency was stabilized quickly and compassionately.

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## **Region 8 – Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope, and Stark Counties**

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### **Region 8 – A Note from Donna in Dickinson**

*“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

*I just wanted to thank everyone of you for doing all this for me. Your three people really worked it is already helped be warmer in here. I love my refrigerator and so thank you for all you have done for me. Make sure you thank those men for me, too. I did, but they need to hear it again!”*

*God bless all you have done for me. Make sure you enjoy this season, for me and all that you have supported.*

*May your Christmas be filled with joy and special moments.*

*Happy Holidays! — Donna”*

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