



The Dallas Morning News: Karen Stallwood

"I'm so happy, I don't know what to do," says Mae Loggins, one of the recipients of roofing work done through a program called Shingle Solutions.

## City, donors helping bail out homeowners with failing roofs

By Laura Griffin  
Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

When it rained, it poured in Mae Loggins' house.

The 78-year-old East Dallas woman had to place four buckets throughout her house to catch the rain that came through her roof. When the buckets filled with water, they were too heavy for her to lift, so she emptied them with a stew pot.

"Like bailing out a boat," she said. "I've been trying to get my roof fixed for six years, but it's really expensive."

The problem cleared up Wednesday. Mrs. Loggins' roof was one of 20 replaced through a new city program called Shingle Solutions.

The city of Dallas, with help from the Center for Housing Resources and a \$25,000 grant from Guaranty Federal Bank, is working with 19 roofing companies this week to fix roofs of low-income elderly and disabled homeowners.

"A new roof can actually save the home for many of these people and keep them from having to move out," said Audrey Weir of the non-

### Shingle Solutions offers free services, works on 20 homes

profit Center for Housing Resources, which recruited the roofing companies.

Mrs. Loggins has lived alone on Junius Street just south of the Lakewood district since her husband, Jack, died in 1990. She is diabetic and has survived three bouts with cancer.

She worked for 35 years in movie theaters around Dallas, including the Lakewood and Majestic. Doctors made her retire four years ago, she said.

Through the years, she has collected lots of movie memorabilia and autographed photographs, all of which could have been ruined had her roof not been fixed.

"I've even got some pictures of Elvis," she said.

The eaves on Mrs. Loggins' house made her roofing job more challenging than many. The Center for Housing Resources recruited

carpenters to rework the eaves and remove six layers of shingles from parts of the roof.

But with Griffith Roofing finishing up the job, Mrs. Loggins can forget about hauling out the buckets.

"I'm so happy, I don't know what to do," she said.

The Dallas Housing Department's People Helping People program recommended homeowners for new roofs, based on income and need.

"We have more people in need than we can get to fast enough," said Gale Paul, People Helping People program coordinator. "We plan to do this again next spring."

The roofing companies donated labor not only to help others but to dispel the notion that some roofers are less than reputable, said Cathy Jones of the Center for Housing Resources.

"There are always bad roofer stories," she said. "All you hear about are roofing scams on the elderly.

"They've come to adopt these people, and they've all agreed to do it again in the spring."

# Keeping the roofs over their heads

•Plano companies among those making repairs to Dallas homes.

By CATHY SPAULDING

Staff writer

South Dallas resident Bertha Cox recalled the wonderful feeling she experienced when she stood on her porch during Friday's rains.

"I was on my porch and not getting wet," she said, adding that she has the Lord and free repair work from a Plano roofing company to thank for it.

Three Plano area companies — Elite, Trident and Texas Best — were among 19 roofers that did free repair work for 22 needy and elderly Dallas residents last week. It was part of the Shingle Solutions project sponsored by the nonprofit Center for Housing Resources, the City of Dallas and Guaranty Federal Bank, which provided \$25,000 in construction materials.

Center for Housing Resources Center representative Audrey Weir recruited the roofers to provide the labor.

"A leaky roof is highly damaging to a home," Weir said. "A new roof can actually save the home for many of these people and keep them from having to move out.

"Some people literally had holes in their roofs where you could see outside," she said, citing Cox's home as an example.

Jeff Peters, president of Elite Roofing of Plano, said Cox's roof was "pretty gone."

"The bottom layer of her roof was rotted through," he said.

"It was leaking all over, getting into the Sheetrock. I had to put buckets around the house," Cox said. "There was nothing I could do about it. But I felt that one day, God would do something about it. And he did."

Peters was more modest in his appraisal.

Weir "called us and asked if we would help and I said 'sure,'" he said. "We like helping out."

Peters observed that his heart was touched by helping the elderly woman.

"She helps a lot of people," he said. "She lives in

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## Repairs

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an area where there are a lot of homeless people and she has a clothes closet on her front porch where people can get clothes for free."

Plano resident Paul Willi, owner of Trident Roofing, was similarly moved when he repaired the roof of 93-year-old Joe Lay, who is deaf. He said Lay was wary about the roofing work because of previous construction problems on his house.

"When we first talked to him, he looked us over and said 'how much is this going to cost me,' And when we told him 'nothing,' he said, 'I'll believe it when I see it,'" Willi said.

"Lay stood in front of his home and watched everything," Weir said.

Weir also praised Texas Best Roofing. Officials from that company could not be reached for comment. She said when she contacted that company, officials there referred her to 10 more people who would do the work.

She said the repair work could have cost these low-income resi-



Submitted photo

**Workers reconstruct** the roof of a home in South Dallas. Three Plano area companies were among 19 roofers that participated in Shingle Solutions last week.

dents \$5,000 to \$8,000. Peters said his two days of labor at the house was worth around \$2,000.

Weir said homes all over Dallas County needed work, from Hamilton Park in North Dallas to East Dallas, South Dallas, even Duncanville.

The week of Nov. 11-15 was chosen for most of the roofing work

because it was so close to Thanksgiving, Weir said.

Cox surely expressed thanks.

"Before, I was living in the deep seat of depression. I didn't want anybody to come and see the condition I was in," she said. "But since (the repairs) I told everyone it's the greatest day I ever had. I saw more joy from this."