

Rotary seeks help for homeless family of 10

DeVries lost home in fire last December

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OF THE ATASCADERO NEWS

TEMPLETON — There are many situations in which a person may find themselves homeless. For Esther DeVries and her family of 10 it was a fire that happened on Dec. 14, 2014, taking their home and possessions leaving them with next to nothing.

DeVries said that the outpour of support from the community has been wonderful, but they still have not found a place to call home permanently.

Then on Feb. 3 the Templeton Rotary Club announced at its monthly meeting that they were going to help the DeVries family find or build a home. Rotarians Will van Kranenburg and Georgia Vreeken explained that this is what Rotary is about, connecting professionals in a variety of industries to provide support to the community. In this case, the Templeton Rotary will be connecting DeVries with industry professionals involved in real estate, contractors, property owners or anyone else that can help them find, build or refurbish an existing structure.

The Templeton Rotary members are very active in the community. The active and engaging nature of club members is how they were able to connect with the DeVries family to provide support.

"I was in the line at the grocery store and could not help but overhear what the checker and the women in front of me were



Photo courtesy of Esther DeVries

The DeVries family lost their home to a fire in December and now the Templeton Rotary Club is seeking to help find them a new home.

talking about," van Kranenburg said. "The woman in front of me happened to be Esther. After hearing her story I felt that this was a project that fit the Rotary mission exactly. I invited her and her children to our monthly meeting to brainstorm with our club members about how to best approach her problem. We discovered that it was the size of her family and the fact that she owns two dogs that was making it hard for her to rent a large enough home. She is also a single mother of 10 with seven living at home so she has very little time for a full-time job. We are looking for any dwelling that is on a property to rent and are willing to fix up any dwelling for her with our team of dedicated Rotarians. So anyone with a trailer on a property or an older fixer upper that is willing to work with us should

contact Georgia or myself. We are also looking at homes for rent that would be willing to rent to this wonderful family."

Vreeken added that DeVries is one of the most amazing women she has ever had the pleasure of meeting. She said that DeVries is a true pioneer woman and does everything the old-fashioned way.

"She bakes bread, milling her own flour; she has been raising 10 children on her own; she home schools her children with great success and is a very active member of her community," Vreeken said. "I have known Esther for over a decade and have always been impressed with her ability to take on any situation. She is a true pioneer woman and a shining example to mothers everywhere."

The Rotary Club is an inter-

national organization with more than 1.2 million members. Their mission as an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide is to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

"We hope that our wonderful community will come together in support of the DeVries family and to have them secure a home soon," said van Kranenburg.

For more information about the Templeton Rotary, visit www.templetonrotary.com. If you're interested in helping the DeVries family find a home, contact Will van Kranenburg by e-mail at will.vankranenburg@dmgamerica.com or Georgia Vreeken at phis1978@sbcglobal.net.