



## community development partnership

*Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower Cape*

### When the Heat Went Out, CDP's Housing Rehabilitation Program Came to the Rescue



*“This was such a blessing for me...to be able to get all the work done and not have to make monthly payments.”*

Dee Venuti-Davidson, South Dennis

When Dee Venuti-Davidson received a postcard from the CDP this summer about our Housing Rehabilitation program, she had no idea how soon she would be needing it. The postcard promoted the availability of up to \$35,000 in funds for low- to moderate-income South Dennis residents to make necessary repairs on their homes. Mrs. Venuti-Davidson kept the postcard, and in November as the temperature dropped, her heating system failed. It was right before Thanksgiving and she

said receiving that postcard “was like a miracle.”

Mrs. Venuti-Davidson, a sharp woman in her 80s, had lost her husband the previous year, and now she was living alone and on Social Security. The cost of fixing an entire heating system was more than daunting. She made the call, and the CDP staff immediately started working on her case.

While the CDP was receiving bids and lining up local contractors, Mrs. Venuti-Davidson managed to stay warm using two electric heaters. Contractors were at work in her house within a couple of days. While the heating contractor, Rusty's Inc. installed the new fuel-efficient heating system, CDP staff realized that there were a number of other vital repairs that needed to get done.

In addition to critical home repairs like roofing and siding, electrical, heating and plumbing work and lead paint abatement, the Housing Rehab program also finances energy efficiency upgrades to keep properties in good condition for the long term. In Mrs. Venuti-Davidson's case, this meant a new front door, new basement doors, and a new slider. Her roof was also in terrible condition, so it was decided that it should be added to the scope of work. The side of her house needed re-shingling and her gutters were replaced.

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Over the course of five weeks, the contracting crew completed all the work. She couldn't be happier. "The crew that was here was fantastic. They were so quiet, and all they did was laugh."

Housing Rehab loans are 0% interest, deferred, and forgivable over 15-years. Applicants must be income eligible. For Mrs. Venuti-Davidson, this was a life-saver and is allowing her to stay in her home. "This was such a blessing for me...to be able to get all the work done and not have to make monthly payments." She then says with a smile "I know my husband is up there watching over us."