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Oil Heat Cares Helps an Elderly Woman Get a New Boiler



Members of OESP pose for a photo at Elaine Pickeral's home.
Oil Heat Cares

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MAPLEWOOD – This winter, Elaine Pickerel, 87, has been warm and safe in her home in Warren, where she has lived for 63 years with her late husband, Everett.

But that fact was in question last fall, when her faulty boiler was no longer working efficiently and needed to be replaced. The widow, on a fixed income, could not afford such an expense.

Pickerel is a long-time customer of Woolley Home Solutions in Maplewood, which is connected to a non-profit organization that helps people in need get critical repair to their heating and air conditioning systems. Oil Heat Cares, established in 2005, works through the Oil Energy Service Professionals (OESP), a

national trade organization, to secure donated materials and manpower for such vital projects.

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Fortunately for Pickeral, she is neighbors with Jim Froehlich from American Oil Recovery, a longtime OESP member. And her service is through Art Devre from Woolley, also affiliated with OESP.

Froelich and Devre nominated the elderly woman for the latest Oil Heat Cares project at the Garden State chapter meeting of OESP. Hands were raised to donate materials and labor. Dave Bessette, Oil Heat Cares president, pushed the approval through the non-profit board with enthusiastic support.

That approval prompted OESP to begin securing all the materials and workers needed to replace the boiler. Such a job required many hands.

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Charley Holmes from Venco Sales reached out to Mike Muzyka, the regional sales manager at New Yorker Boiler, procuring a New Yorker steam boiler for the project. The boiler and materials were delivered by WA Birdsall & Co, the local New York dealer. Keith Trowbridge from Universal Supply Group donated a Tiger Loop Ultra with hoses for the job, as well.

Then, a crew of volunteers arrived at Pickeral's house to do a big day of work. The crew included Ed Postol, Devre, Dave Butler and Joe Feeley from Woolley Home Solutions, along with Paul Cuprewich from JW Pierson, Dick Brandt from Van Doren Oil, Froehlich and Holmes.

The new, energy-efficient boiler was installed just in time for winter, ensuring Pickeral had reliable and safe heat.

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