



THOMAS
UTTERBACK

Thomas Utterback was a man with a big heart. A native of Guthrie, Oklahoma, Mr. Utterback enjoyed a long and successful career in the banking industry in Oklahoma City. Described as a "Christian gentleman," Mr. Utterback was a strong advocate of south Oklahoma City. He worked and lived within the community for many years and provided his leadership by serving a term as president of the South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. Living under the adage that it is better to give than to receive, Mr. Utterback chose to live a lifestyle – a modest home, black & white television – in order that his estate could benefit his community. Thanks to his bequest to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, Mr. Utterback is doing just that.

Great Gifts

Matching one man's gift to a need within a community he loved resulted in repairs made to 12 homes owned by low-income elderly citizens.

Rebuilding Together, formerly known as Christmas in April, is one of the nation's largest volunteer organizations whose mission is to preserve and revitalize homes owned by the elderly. In 2003, the Oklahoma City affiliate office requested a grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to assist with home repairs during its annual National Rebuilding Day.

Because of Mr. Utterback's deep devotion to south Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Thomas W. Utterback Fund to purchase the necessary materials to make improvements to 12 homes located in the south area of the community.

Thanks to the grant, more than 600 volunteers labored over a three-day period to make improvements ranging from replacing broken windows to repairing heating units, leaking roofs and dangerous stairways to adding a fresh coat of paint to a well-loved home.

Homes like the one belonging to Mrs. Maendele, a diabetic on a fixed income who is raising her grandson. Her home needed serious repairs including adding sheetrock to walls and sealing drafty doors and windows. "We both rejoiced in deep appreciation to you all who made our dreams a reality," she said following the repairs. "God bless you."

One single Great Gift made by a man who loved his community has made the lives of 12 elderly, low-income residents like Mrs. Maendele and her grandson safer and more comfortable and provided them with continued independence.



A Rebuilding Together volunteer repairs a broken screen door for an elderly homeowner.

For 35 years, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has been matching Great Gifts such as this with community issues and opportunities through organizations like Rebuilding Together. If you are interested in how you can make a Great Gift like Mr. Utterback's, please contact Jennifer Stewart at 405/235-5603 or j.stewart@occf.org.

Thomas Utterback wanted to continue helping his community after his death.



Rebuilding Together needed assistance to repair the residences of 12 low-income elderly homeowners.

Thanks to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, the wishes of both Mr. Utterback and Rebuilding Together were met.

Matching donors' charitable goals with the causes they care about is what the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has been doing for 35 years. Let us help you with your Great Gift to the community. Contact Jennifer Stewart at 405/235-5603 or visit www.occf.org

Great Gifts



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