



**Crystal Run**  
**50** of **Village, Inc.**  
**Years** *Life-Changing Opportunity*

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# News

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## **Lowe's Heroes Go Beyond Retail**

Members of the 2009 Lowe's Heroes volunteer program spent a warm sunny day in November using their skills, time and supplies to make improvements to the front entryway of a Crystal Run Village, Inc. group home in Middletown. Lowe's Heroes is a company-wide volunteer initiative that offers Lowe's employees the opportunity to work on a project in their own neighborhood.

The challenge for this year's volunteers was to identify a one-time basic needs priority project for a nonprofit that would have true impact. According to Roselaure Exantus, the human resources manager at the Lowe's in Middletown, "it was the magnitude of the Crystal Run Village residential operation that made an impression on the Heroes team during the selection process. The fact that the nonprofit maintains 50 group homes and a number of administrative locations and, the need at this particular site was the basis for our choice," she said. "The state of the economy is affecting nonprofits of every type."

Diminishing State revenues has required service providers like Crystal Run Village to enact strident cost containment measures. "Our standards remain high, however, the loss of funding has resulted in projects like this one being put on the back burner," said Tom Tango, director of facilities for the nonprofit. "The improvements done by the Lowe's volunteers were much more than I envisioned. The residents make use of the improvements each time they enter their home and they are proud to welcome their guests. Giving them a sense of community and bettering their lives is the end result of the hard work done by the volunteers," he added.

Lowe's Heroes volunteers share a common goal – to make their communities better places to live through alliances with well-respected organizations. Lowe's believes that community involvement extends beyond the boundaries of the traditional retail setting. In 2008, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together contributed more than \$25 million to support community and education projects in the United States and Canada.

Crystal Run Village, Inc. has been creating and providing services for the inclusion, independence, and enrichment of the lives of people with developmental disabilities for 50 years. The agency provides support in the form of housing, programs for learning and self expression, opportunities for employment, community inclusion and recreation - all for the purpose of an individual's greater independence and contribution as a citizen. The human services agency has been based in Middletown since 1959.

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