



**October 2009 Story**  
**The Carpenter's Hands – Youth Refurbish Homes in Florida - \$26,000**

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." (I Timothy 4:12)* In these words St. Paul encourages Timothy, the young pastor whom he was privileged to mentor. We as LWML/Women in Mission can learn a lot from Timothy and Paul's instructions for him.

Young people today, not only in the United States but throughout the world, are looking for purpose and meaning in their lives. Wise youth directors see that the need youth have for making a meaningful impact on the lives of others far outweighs their need for entertainment. Armed with their desire to help, our youth have a great deal to offer the world.

At Grace Lutheran Church, St. Petersburg, Florida, Youth Director Carl Schleede is privileged to work with teens who want to make life better for the elderly and the financially challenged of their community. These youth, under the direction of able adult volunteers, make necessary repairs to the homes of elderly people who no longer can do the work themselves or who are financially unable to do it. Some of the homes have been equipped with wheelchair accessible ramps built by the youth. Other homes have been blessed with new porch roofs built by the adults and youth volunteers. In other homes young people learn and apply the fine arts of scraping, caulking and painting.

DCE Carl shared the following heartwarming account about the impact these youth are making on the elderly of St. Petersburg: *An elderly woman in a wheelchair owned one of the houses that we worked on in the past. We carpeted her front porch, replaced the ceiling in her kitchen, and built a wheelchair ramp. On the last day, we noticed that the area where her flower garden used to be was overgrown with weeds. So we weeded, planted, and built a border around that area. That afternoon she came out of her house, and, for over an hour, she just stared at the garden. Her neighbor said that it was the first time she had been out of the house in months. She loved all of the jobs we did; but she loved the unscheduled work in the garden area the most.*

The LWML, meeting in convention in Portland, Oregon, in June 2009, voted that \$26,000 be granted to provide a used van that will be outfitted with tools that are needed for this work. This van will assist the young people and their mentors in letting Christ's light shine as they do repair work for those in their communities who are physically and financially challenged. May God continue to bless them as they glorify His name by helping others.