

BRINGING HOPE TO EDMONTON HOMEOWNERS



REBECCA'S STORY

When Rebecca bought her house on a tree lined street in the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood she knew it needed a lot of work. But the location was perfect; close enough to walk her two boys, Gabriel and Isaac, to school and near to a vibrant art scene along 118th avenue. "I love this neighbourhood because of it's small town feel in the middle of a big city."

“My house is the one thing I have to pass on to my children, I want it to be in good shape.”

She worried however about her rising household utility bills combined with the home repairs she knew had to be done. Then she read an advertisement in her local paper for the HOPE program and she knew she would be able to move her home repair schedule up. "It took a huge weight off my mind."

Working closely with Dennis Lee, HOPE inspector, Rebecca will be able to re grade her foundation, fix the large cracks and fit new tele posts. Repairs are expected to be done this summer and Rebecca could not be happier, "Not having the anxiety of 'is the quarter of my basement going to collapse in a rainstorm' is huge." Rebecca also qualifies for energy efficient upgrades and will be replacing her old, poorly insulated windows. She is excited to get her utility bills down because, as she says, "My utilities right now are more than my mortgage."

The 20 year agreement she entered into with the program did not bother her as she intends to stay in her house forever. "Even if I wanted to sell, I liked how Dennis explained it to me – that this money is like an interest free loan which makes sense."

A community-minded person, Rebecca feels a sense of obligation to the wider community to keep her house, built in the early 1900's, intact so it can contribute to the overall look and feel of the neighbourhood. She is also keenly aware of her obligations as a mother. "My house is the one thing I have to pass on to my children, I want it to be in good shape."