

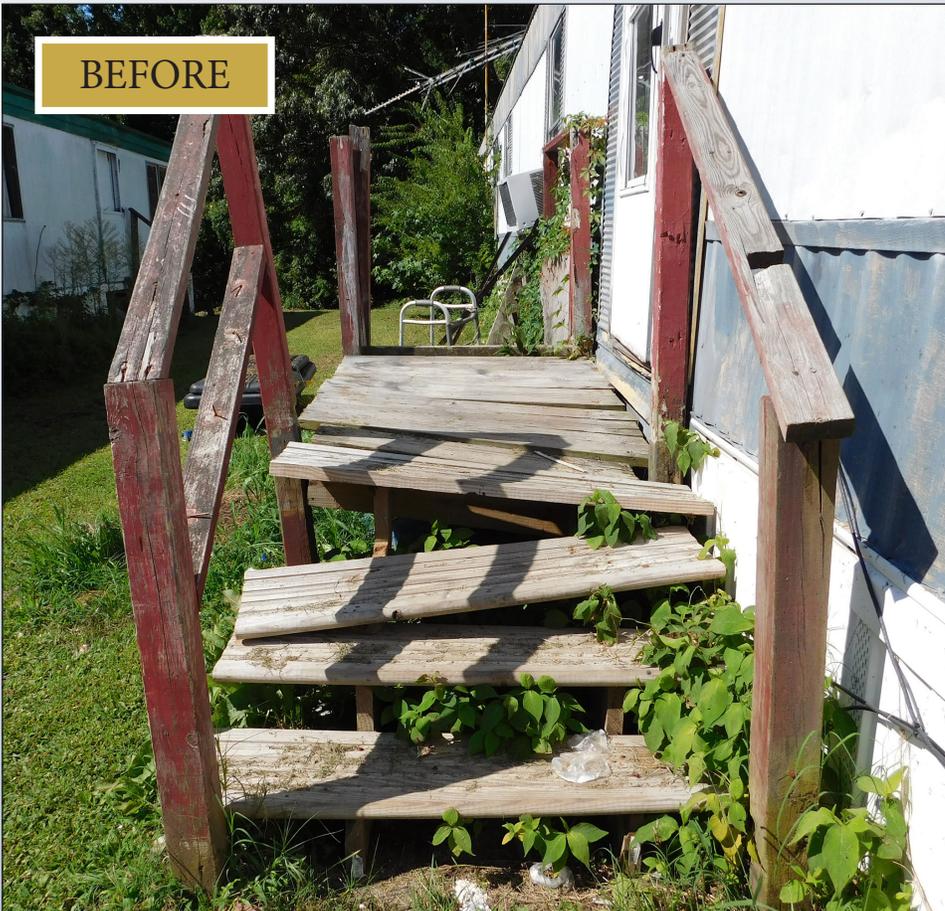


WHAT'S WORKING

A Message From DJJ Director Andy Block

Sept. 8, 2015

CSU 5 Takes Steps To Lend A Hand



Isle of Wight Field Office Team Works Off The Clock To Address Safety Hazard

Christie Ek was gingerly making her way up the badly decaying steps in front of a client's home recently when one started to give way. The young man she was going to see had to grab her and pull her into the door to keep her from falling.

The 15-year senior probation officer went back to her colleagues in CSU 5's Isle of Wight field office and said, "We have to do something. Those stairs are falling apart and are completely unsafe. They've been waiting for months for a local agency to come fix them, and they're still not done."

Left: This is how CSU 5 Senior Probation Officer Christie Ek found the steps at a client's home. She later returned with colleagues Danny Morton (green shirt, below) and Curt More with the necessary materials to build a sturdy new set of steps for the home.



AFTER



Above: Displaying the finished steps, from left: Christie Ek, Danny Morton, Curt More. Below: Morton shows how they also helped to prop up a sagging air conditioning unit.



After returning with Ek to inspect the steps, Supervisor Curt More and P.O. Danny Morton readily agreed. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen steps that looked that bad in an occupied home,” More said. “I had a piece of a porch in my back yard we were able to use, and we just bought the other lumber we needed out of our own pockets.” The project took about half a day to complete.

“Unfortunately, out in these rural areas, our people see a lot of this kind of thing,” said CSU 5 Director Jim Gordon. “It’s hard to believe some of the conditions

people live in.”

“We were happy to do it,” Ek said. “The boy’s grandmother, who owns the home, was very grateful.”

CSU 5’s Isle of Wight team is to be commended for its extra effort, which is just one more example of the ways in which our DJJ staff go above and beyond the call of duty to help the children, families and communities they serve.

“You always read about teachers taking money out of their own pockets,” Gordon said. “Probation officers do it, too ... you just don’t hear about it.”