

For Immediate Release

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Community Services Help Vet

Green River, Wyo---United Way of Southwest Wyoming's First Call For Help (FC4H) program assisted a Green River, Wyoming disabled veteran in need. The veteran was referred to First Call for Help from Veterans Assistance. The veteran's water heater went out and could not be repaired. With winter temperatures, Wyoming winds and young children in the home his need was immediate.

"He [veteran] called and was looking for help because he could not afford to purchase a water heater on his own. There is currently not a central place to go to get this type of emergency needs assistance, so we [First Call for Help] started making calls throughout Sweetwater County," said Cathie Hughes, Executive Director of SW-WRAP, which is home to the FC4H program. "When we first spoke to the veteran, we found that he had already made an effort to identify assistance in the community, and had priced the cost of a new water heater. After several days of research and contact with many community resources, FC4H was able to establish a partnership with the American Legion, Archie Hay Post #24 and subsequently with The Home Depot, both of Rock Springs."

The American Legion donated \$350.00 towards the purchase of the water heater; Home Depot then offered to donate funds to cover the remaining cost of the water heater and all of the other needed installation supplies. The veteran worked with volunteers to install the water heater in his home.

"The FC4H program leverages community collaborations throughout Sweetwater County and Southwest Wyoming, reported Hughes. The program revolves around a central intake system which serves as screening and brief intervention one-stop-shop for callers in need. We work on multiple levels to assist people in need, maximize resources, identify gaps in services and assist in short and long-range community planning."

First Call for Help is a United Way funded program that provides information and refers residents to the appropriate community services based upon their needs. This service is offered to Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater and Uinta County residents. For more information contact Cathie Hughes at 877-435-7851.



Picture: Cathie Hughes (left) and Sara Dennison present Richard Dansereau, American Legion representative, and Jeff Fry, Home Depot employee, certificates of appreciation from United Way of Southwest Wyoming, SW-WRAP and First Call For Help for their assistance in providing a retired veteran with a new water heater.