

# Chapter Community Service Award

A sinkhole opens up an opportunity for NARI of Greater Charlotte to pour love and support into a local family whose lives were turned upside down by one tragedy after another. It's a great example of the heartbeat of generosity that drives our chapter.

It all started when one of our fellow contractor's became gravely ill. This General Contractor lost his business, his skills and his ability to keep his own home safe. The concrete around his pool crumbled, the wood deck rotted, and overgrown shrubbery gobbled up the fence around his once glistening pool. The lining of the pool started to leak and that's when things became downright dangerous. A giant sinkhole threatened to swallow up the backyard. Just when he didn't think things could get much worse, the unimaginable happened. His wife fell into that dilapidated pool and was seriously injured. Since his illness, she had become his primary caretaker and now she needed to be taken care of herself. Her biggest concern was the safety of her young grandchildren. Were they going to be the next casualty of this danger zone in their backyard?

One of our board members heard about this family's plight and brought it to the board who mobilized quickly to help. We put the call out to our members and they showed up in a big way. Several members provided labor, heavy equipment, dirt and a dumpster. Team NARI put in countless volunteer hours over the course of four weekends. They demolished the concrete decking and pool, hauled off the debris, filled the hole with over 200 yards of donated dirt then tamped, graded, seeded and strawed it back to safety. The rotten deck was removed and temporary supports for the porch were installed. The rotten shed, fence and overgrown brush were all cleared. The safety hazards are gone and the area is clear for their grandchildren to play on what will soon be a lush lawn!

The homeowner didn't have to pay a dime. The materials and labor costs on this job were more than \$15K – all donated by our members or paid for out of chapter funds. The heart of NARI of Greater Charlotte is our members who are always willing to help those in need in our community. They did this on their free weekends during the pandemic and were more than happy to volunteer for this great cause.



