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ron williams: ministering through the home team

by auralie ruggiere

FOR SOME, HELPING THOSE IN NEED MEANS DONATING MONEY AT THE HOLIDAYS or giving clothes to charity. For others, it is a lifelong commitment.

One man, Ron Williams, has a purpose and a vision for the citizens in his town. He, along with 180 volunteers from Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, readily fix toilets, clean houses, repair cars, or any other requests from church members in need throughout the growing community of Frisco.

Since the fall of 2001, The Home Team Community Outreach Ministry has assisted those who had nowhere else to turn. It began in an adult Sunday school class at the church when several widows needed minor home and car repairs. Ron volunteered to bring everything together – the volunteers, the supplies, the contractors – and now hundreds have been served through the ministry.

Ron put his time and effort in to research and contacting churches throughout the nation seeking pointers and expertise to ensure the success of Stonebriar Community Church's program. The group adopted the vision statement: "Reach out and serve the

Ron Williams
photo by Ann Martin Photography

needy and less fortunate." Services offered range from simple carpentry repairs and painting to lawn mowing, home catastrophes and car repairs.

"What we've seen out of this is a chance to talk to people and find out what their problems are," Ron states. Ron and his volunteers turn them to the proper counselors and outreach ministries to better assist them. "It makes you feel good that you can help people like that," Ron concludes. "There are so many in sight of our church living in poverty. I am convinced that it (The Home Team) will continue to grow."

Ron Williams is an engineer by education, which you quickly notice when working with him. Before retiring in Frisco, Ron served on the Planning and Zoning Commission in New Hope, a small town northeast of McKinney where he lived with his family. Since retiring from ITT Flygt as district manager for five states, Ron volunteers time to ministry in addition to spending time with his wife Barbara, three grown daughters, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. "Retirement gives me time to do the things I should do," Ron comments.

Ron and Barbara, work regularly with ministries and programs at Stonebriar Community Church. They are both on the Board of Deacons and assist with communion and baptism services for the congregation.

As a hobby, Ron communicates with people from all over the world as a licensed Amateur Radio Operator. Since 1978, he has met, over the radio, fellow operators from South Africa and Japan and even became a member of a classroom in the United States. During a classroom discussion on ham radios, the instructor and about twenty 8 and 9-year-olds found Ron over the airwaves. "Usually you have one-on-one conversations. This was with a whole class!" Ron remembers. His favorite, and most unique, conversation took place in his car on the way to lunch. "I heard this man talking with a heavy accent and heard him say 'Coney Island.' I thought he meant Coney Island, New York, but actually, he lived on Coney Island off the coast of Ireland!" The best part is the "interesting conversations with people from all walks of life," he adds.

Ron Williams' life is defined by a commitment to family, friends and those in need. He is slow to talk about his accomplishments yet quick to help when needed. He goes the extra mile, dedicated to making a difference in the community through civic action and attention to the important things in life, the well being of those throughout his community.

Dawn Morton is a freelance writer from Plano.

"Ron Williams' life is defined by *commitment to family.*"