

**Ann Wade**  
**2459 2nd Avenue N.**

Instead of just giving up on repairing and updating her home, Ann did what she could do on her own to improve it first. This was a major step for her since she has both personal and physical limitations, and a special needs son, plus less income than when she obtained her home two years ago. In order to clean up her part of the neighborhood, she agreed to have an “N” Team staff person and one of our volunteers clean out a two car garage which she has been unable to do for the past two years. Because of her physical limitations, which are equilibrium related, she had fallen several times attempting to do the garage work herself, once onto a board which had a nail in it.

She is a trooper! Many people would have just left it the way it was and gone on with just surviving life, but she always wants to do the most with what she has and feels responsible to be the best neighbor she can be. Ann has also volunteered at CareFest and BungalowFest, investing as much of herself in whatever capacity her physical limitations and family obligations allow.

Ann is very thankful for all the help she has received and wanted to share how she feels: “I’m reliving the way I grew up when neighbors helped neighbors. Somehow the concept of sharing time and talent with the person next door has been lost in many communities, but not Historic Kenwood. The City of St. Petersburg, The Foundry and the Historic Kenwood partnership have brought it home to me yet again. I looked for a year in the Kenwood neighborhood and found just the right home at 2460 2nd Ave. N. Much work was required but with help from my family, the kitchen was redone, the roof was replaced, interior painted and the way overgrown yard was made manageable.

Recently, I became aware of and qualified for support offered through the City of St. Petersburg which would allow me to refurbish the problematic home’s exterior. Together, an HK Board member, LaAuna Lewis, and I applied for funding and were approved.”

After seven days with five very skilled City “N” Team staff, the exterior of my home was prepared for a painting day on December 6. On that date, members of the Foundry, Historic Kenwood residents, personal friends and two of the original 5 City employees made great improvements to my property. These accomplishments include exterior painting, tree removal, yard work, gate installation, and other tasks I was unable to accomplish due to physical limitations. The City also followed up with four more days of final touch up. I am awestruck and so proud of the outcome.

None of this could have happened without the support of The City’s following staff: Mike Dove, Neighborhood Affairs Administrator, Susan Ajoc, Community Services Director and Donald Putnam, Manager of Neighborhood “N” Team. I am grateful to every one of the above mentioned individuals, who not only improved my property, but also my children’s and my quality of life.”

Sometimes it takes a village. The work done by Ann Wade, the “N” team, and volunteers from The Foundry and Historic Kenwood , transformed this home into one of which we can all be proud. If you would like more information about this program, qualification requirements, or would like to volunteer, please contact LaAuna Lewis at [theoaksnest@yahoo.com](mailto:theoaksnest@yahoo.com). — LaAuna Lewis

