

Local 2 Comes to the Rescue

Botched Non-Union Roofing Job Would Have Cost Family \$10K

A union roofer provided a free roof for a family—and in the process probably saved the couple's marriage. Well, reduced the stress level, anyway.

When Meadrith Kruse hired non-union contractor Lee Triplett to replace the roof on her family's home last March, she thought she was signing up for a home improvement, not a total disaster. She didn't know that five years earlier, Triplett and his uncle were sued by the Missouri Attorney General's office because they "misrepresented the quality of work and materials that would be used, did not finish home repair projects and refused to return deposits to customers," according to a report from the Better Business Bureau.

For \$8,000 Meadrith Kruse received what was deemed by several contractors "the worst roofing job they had ever seen in their lives," she said. Eventually water leaked into every room in the Kruses' one-story, flat-roofed frame house. With a husband in Iraq, an 18-month-old at home and another child on the way, the stress of the botched roof job was more than Kruse could handle. Attorneys told her it would cost about \$10,000 for her to recover the cost of the roof if she took Triplett to court.

She had no choice but to have the roof re-done. She sought a recommendation from a client, and the client—a contractor—phoned Rick Ryan, owner of Ryan Roofing Co. Inc. of Granite City. Ryan assessed the damage: "I looked at that and thought: In my 30 years in the business, this is the worst roof I've ever seen."

Rick Ryan decided then to make things right. "I said to myself: Roofing's been very good to me. I thought I'd give something back," he said. He contacted Roofers Local 2, St. Louis, MO, Apprentice Coordinator Dan Knight and several vendors who pulled together to provide the Kruse family with a new roof—free.



The Roofers Rescue Crew included (from left) Allen Walker, David Gurley, Rick Ryan, Darrin Greenwood, Dan Knight, Jerry Weller and Mike Wood. Local 2 members who worked on the project but not pictured included Allen Damerath, Phillip Masters and Gary Wyland. Photo and excerpts from the St. Louis Labor Tribune.

Ryan donated the labor and machinery. He sent some employees to the job, and Roofers Local 2 put out a call to their members for volunteers. The roofing crew tore out four layers of bad roofing from the 2,600-square-foot house and carport roof. Waste Management donated use of a dumpster, and Roofers Mart Inc. of Shrewsbury donated materials to put on a new EPDM rubber roof.

Ryan advised Meadrith that, in the future, she should never hire a contractor unless the company was a professional union firm. She agrees, and she thanks Rick Ryan and the volunteers from Local 2 for possibly saving her marriage. That may be exaggerating things slightly, she says, but "He has really been a blessing to us. How do you repay somebody for doing something like this?"

Giving the Gift of Life

Each year, members of Local 11, Chicago, IL, support the community by donating blood at the annual Red Cross blood drive held at the apprenticeship facility. Journeymen and apprentices alike take time out to give blood, an act that helps millions of patients in need. To learn more about donating blood in your community, visit www.redcrossblood.org.



Local 11 Trustee Steve Oboikovitz and apprentice Robert Barnes help their community by donating blood.



A Local 11 apprentice finishes his blood donation at the local's annual blood drive.



Minneapolis Roofers Come to the Aid of American Legion Post

Jim Anderson, commander of Rosetown American Legion Post 542 in St. Paul, MN, had experienced more than his share of frustration. When he took the commander position in 2006, he also inherited a shoddy roof and a tiresome legal battle.

Two years earlier the Legion hired a Minneapolis contractor to install a new roof on the building. The original roof was built in 1967 and had become a safety hazard, with mold growing on the ceiling and, on one occasion, a ceiling tile that fell on a guest.

But the company did not tear off the existing roof and did not install the tapered roof the Legion wanted. The roof continued to leak. This set off a long and costly court battle and after two years of legal fees and settlements that were never met by the contractor, the Legion finally had to drop the suit. “We had to stop the bleeding,” said Anderson.

Through connections at the Legion, Anderson found an answer to his problems. The president and the CEO of Local 96 contractor Peterson Bros. heard about the situation, and they decided to do something. CEO Mike Peterson—himself a member of the post—coordinated a mass effort of labor and materials to get the roof repaired at no cost to the Legion.



Photos courtesy of Local 96 Training Center

The crew gathers after tearing-off the first day.

Local 96, Minneapolis, MN, put the call out to all apprentices. Over 50 volunteers showed up and together they were able to fully replace the roof in three days. Materials were donated by Atomic Architectural Sheet Metal, McArthur Co. and K.R. Kline & Associates.

It was a win-win situation, with apprentices receiving on-the-job training and Legion members finally getting a solid roof over their heads. Pete Jaworski, Local 96 Business Agent, was especially proud of the hard work the volunteers put into the project. “All the guys here appreciate the work [the American Legion] has done for us, and we want to pay them back,” he said.

Now the American Legion Post can get back to focusing on what matters most: creating a warm, safe environment for America’s veterans.



Business Agent Pete Jaworski tries to keep up with a roof cutter.



Apprentices Ryan Neal (left) and Brody Lissick-Bibeau apply Firestone seam tape.



Apprentices Greg Young (left) and Aaron Sibell (right) learn Firestone detail work as Mike Peterson of Peterson Bros. Roofing looks on.

Striking Out Muscular Dystrophy

On May 1, 2010, five members of Local 20, Kansas City, MO, got together to fight for a cure for muscular dystrophy—by bowling. The team represented Local 20 during the 15th Annual Muscular Dystrophy Association Labor Challenge Bowl.

The bowlers, who all work for Quality Roofing in Kansas City, MO, and the membership of Local 20 raised \$4,800 for the event, earning them the title once again of “Top Fundraising Team.” All together more than \$22,000 was collected during this event for MDA. Local 20 Business Agent Bill Post would like to thank the International and everyone who donated for their support for such a worthwhile cause.



Local 20 roofers Wes Reaves, Mark Mills, Ed Fulps, Paul Post and Kevin Adams bowl for a cure at the 15th annual MDA Labor Challenge Bowl.