



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Variety of Homeowner Needs Addressed through Iowa West Grant

SW IOWA- Unexpected expenses can be a burden that's hard to overcome. Often those expenses are very necessary, such as needing to replace a faulty furnace. Lewis resident Kenneth Griffin ran into this need a few years back and SWIPCO was able to get that replacement done by using funds from an Iowa West Foundation grant.



Kenneth originally had a local HVAC team come out and replace a venting section. While doing the work they told him that his furnace and AC units would need to be replaced soon due to some faults in the system. They recommended getting in touch with SWIPCO, so he did and was placed on a list for possible help. The furnace was able to hang on for long enough and when he eventually reached the top of the list, SWIPCO sprung into action. Work was lined up to replace the furnace and ac unit, as well as repairs to the back door.

“They were in and out with the replacement in a day. It made an immediate difference.” Griffin said, “The units are much more energy efficient, and we saw the reduction in our electric and gas bills as well.”

Griffin said the interactions he had with SWIPCO and the contractors were great, “It was a positive experience. Glad to get the help. I didn’t see them much sometimes because of work, but they took care of everything.”

Another unexpected expense for a homeowner can be foundation issues. Nick and Kelley Kinser of Elliott ran into this issue on their rural property. Runoff from a hill behind their home had started to cause bowing in their basement walls.

Kelley said she originally approached SWIPCO without telling her husband because she had a high school friend who previously received help. They were put on a list for help



and after a four-year wait, which unfortunately is typical because of high demand, they got the call. They then went through a qualification and inspection process.

“It was really perfect timing as some big rains had made the issue worse. It took around two weeks to get everything prepped and then about 3 days for the work.” Kinser said.

Nick and Kelley appreciated how attentive everyone was during the process. Even when there was an issue, they got a quick response, “There was an issue with the contractor billing and Matthew Lee told me not to worry and addressed it right away.” Kelley said, “Sandy Hansen followed up after a couple days and updated me on everything.”

They said the work was interesting to see the process and the different techniques that were implemented to support the foundation. You could tell their appreciation, “I just wish more people knew about what SWIPCO can do.” Kelley said.

SWIPCO utilizes a number of different grant programs for home repair projects and qualification guidelines can vary between them. All are income based and have wait lists, so check with SWIPCO staff early to see if you qualify.

