

FY2024 Buncombe County Tipping Point Grant Report

Organization Name:	Hammer & Heart (H&H)
Project Name:	Tools to Transform

Activities Accomplished	Annual Goal	Amount Completed
# of surveys developed to evaluate the effectiveness of projects in relation to the tools provided	1	1
# of post-project interviews conducted with project managers	3	3
# of year-end interviews completed with project managers to review tool purchases and future needs	1	1

Expenses (please list <u>all</u> grant related expenses)				Amount Spent
Vendor	Item			Amount
Lowe's	Tools			\$2,068.49
Vevor	Tools			\$75.96
Amazon	Tools			\$437.63
Lowe's	Tools			\$319.93
Amazon	Tools			\$67.47
Home Depot	Tools			\$19.25
Home Depot	Tools			\$74.88
Home Depot	Tools			\$116.63
Home Depot	Tools			\$44.91
Home Depot	Tools			\$373.43
Lowe's	Tool Refund (chose other tools)			-\$886.49
Home Depot	Tools			\$283.08
Lowe's	Tools			\$187.99
Town Hardware	Tools			\$1,817.02
TOTAL:				\$ 5,000

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Final Report

The Tools to Transform Project allowed H&H to purchase a large variety of home repair tools. These tools equipped our volunteers with the resources to provide urgent home repairs and accessibility ramps to low-income homeowners in a more effective and efficient manner.

To accomplish the Tools to Transform Project, a comprehensive list of “most useful home repair tools” was developed by the Director and Project Manager. This list was subjected to a price analysis utilizing a variety of vendors and discounts. After review, the final tool list was determined, and tools were ordered based on quality, availability, and price (see attached list).

After receiving the tools, several were returned due to shipping damage, weight or poor quality. New tools were ordered, bringing the total to \$4,995. A photograph of all our tool purchases has been attached.

Inspired by the tools provided by the Tipping Point Grant, local supporters donated funds for H&H to purchase a mobile tool trailer for our new tools. The tool trailer was designed and outfitted by one of our local volunteers (a former engineer!). Once the trailer was built and delivered, volunteers labeled and organized the tools for the most efficient use. Several photographs of the tool trailer have been attached.

After we put the tools to use on several projects—building an accessibility ramp and constructing a set of steps (photos attached)—a Tool Survey was utilized with participating volunteers, focusing on the practical use of the tools purchased through the Tipping Point grant. A summary of the Tool Survey has also been attached.

Finally, post-project interviews were conducted with project managers (a summary of the interviews is attached).

The Tools To Transform project, funded by the Buncombe County Tipping Point Grant, was a huge success for us. As you'll note in the Tool Survey and final interviews, the tools allowed us to greatly simplify our home repair process, invite both experienced and inexperienced volunteers into the building process, and simultaneously provide excellent, long-lasting repairs. Ultimately, low-income homeowners struggling to meet home repair needs were well-served by Tipping Point funds. We anticipate many years of service from our tools... providing safer and more livable home environments for struggling families.

TOOL SURVEY SUMMARY

8 Individuals Were Surveyed

What tools did you personally use during the project?

- Cordless impact driver
- Post hole digger
- Circular saw
- Cordless circular saw
- Miter saw
- Shovel
- Framing square
- Tape Measure
- Saw horse
- Level and tripod
- Multi-tool
- Rasp
- String line
- Framing hammer

Were the tools you utilized effective for accomplishing the task? If not, why not?

- Yes.
- Very much so
- Yes, very helpful, So nice not having to move so many tools from my own shop, into my van, and then back again.
- The impact driver allowed accurate and speedy fastening. The chop saw enabled accurate and safe cutting.

What 3-5 tools did you find to be indispensable during the project?

- Post hole digger
- Cordless impact driver
- Miter saw
- Circular saws
- Level
- Tape Measure
- Driver accessories (bits, nut drivers, etc.)
- Shovel

Were there any tools/equipment H&H did not provide that would have been helpful in accomplishing the task?

- A tamping rod with a flat bottom
- Belt sander
- Shop blower

Summary of Interviews with Project Managers

As a manager working directly with Hammer & Heart clients, how has the Tipping Point Grant helped the low-income families you serve?

- The provision of this great assortment of tools has made a direct impact on our ability to provide more appropriate solutions for our clients. Without them, some of our constructions and repairs would perhaps have been of lower quality or usefulness. For example, without the miter saw, repetitive cuts may have been less consistent or the project designs may have been less detailed.
- It's been huge. We have the tools we need to get the job done, and we are able to help people in a much more efficient manner. It also helps our clients know we are doing a professional job. We show up with the right tools and we do an amazing job!
- One specific way the grant has helped is with accessibility ramps, steps, and railings. The grant has enabled Hammer and Heart to provide new, well-built structures. The client feels safe and more independent as they walk the new, sturdy structures and no longer have to worry about falling.

As a manager of volunteer projects, what difference has the Tipping Point Grant made for you and the volunteers?

- Access to these tools has been (and will continue to be) a huge blessing for our volunteers. We no longer rely on the use of personal equipment (some of which were outdated, unsafe, inappropriate, dull, or unavailable). We now know exactly what is available and can plan accordingly. We even have some sets of compact / lighter weight cordless impact drivers that are much better suited for volunteers who have smaller hands. Greatly appreciated!
- It's great for volunteers because all they have to do is show up, no tools necessary. For the few volunteers without much experience, they have safe and effective tools, and learn the "right way" to build. Knowing we have the right tools also gives our volunteers confidence; they know we are taking the task seriously and want to provide excellent craftsmanship to the people we serve.
- The grant provided a variety of new power/cordless and hand tools. These enable Hammer and Heart to more confidently approach both the needy families and the volunteers. Volunteers know they will have the needed tools and will not have to use their own. H&H can schedule projects and know tool availability is no longer a concern.

Any other thoughts you'd like to share with the committee that approved this project?

- Having new, safer, and appropriate tools has also elevated the respect and confidence everyone has in our organization, our ability to provide high quality services, the willingness to volunteer, and the eagerness to make donations. This grant has been a huge jump start to our whole community. Thank you!
- This has been a game changer for our organization. After we purchased the tools, provided by the grant, folks got behind the idea of a mobile tool trailer—a trailer to store our tools and bring them to the work site. The community was eager to help and it really raised awareness about many of the elderly and widowed who need help maintaining their homes. The tools have been so useful and should see many years of service in our community. Thank you seeing the need and responding so generously!
- A big thank you to the committee for joining with us as we engage those in need. The grant has removed one hinderance to Hammer & Heart's mission. The tools facilitate connection with our neighbors and those in our community. Thank you for providing the tools that enable our volunteers to provide neighbors with safer homes. The clients are physically safer, less anxious, and the volunteers more connected.