



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY TRIAD CONSTRUCTION INC.

Soraida Cerda (left) and her son, Luis Cerda Jr., play outside their Milwaukee home. Triad Construction Inc., West Allis, installed a 6-foot lift on the front of the house to give the boy, who uses a wheelchair, easier access to the home.



A south side Milwaukee house (left) is transformed (right) as Triad Construction Inc., West Allis, makes modifications to the home's entryway. The company installed a 6-foot lift to transport the homeowners' 4-year-old son, who uses a wheelchair, from the front porch to the sidewalk.



Gerise LaSpisa (center), executive director of Variety-The Children's Charity of Wisconsin Inc., oversees a ribbon cutting May 7 in front of a Milwaukee house where Triad Construction Inc., West Allis, installed a 6-foot lift to help the homeowners transport their son.



Luis Cerda Sr. escorts his son, Luis Cerda Jr., onto a 6-foot lift installed on the family's Milwaukee home by Triad Construction Inc. The construction firm and other businesses donated the materials and labor to make the project a reality.

## Lifting their spirits

**F**ifteen steps. That's the distance Soraida Cerda had to carry first her son and then his wheelchair every time the family returned to or left their south side Milwaukee house.

"It was stressful," Cerda said. "Especially in the morning, when the school bus would be waiting, it was very stressful."

Cerda's 4-year-old son, Luis Jr., has cerebral palsy, visual impairment and developmental delays. Because the family did not have the resources to install a wheelchair lift outside their home, Cerda

and her husband, Luis Sr., made do by carrying their son up and down the stairs — a task that became increasingly difficult as Luis Jr. grew, Cerda said.

With the help of Variety-The Children's Charity of Wisconsin Inc., Milwaukee, the Cerdas recently found a solution, Cerda said, when Triad Construction Inc., West Allis, volunteered materials and labor to install a 6-foot wheelchair lift on the front of the family's house.

"Good people need help, especially in a troubled economy," said Mike Dassow, vice president of Triad. "Now is not the time to look the other way."

Once Triad signed on to lead construction, additional support and materials arrived from other businesses, including Bend Industries Inc., West Bend; Central Ready Mixed Concrete Inc., Bridgeview, Ill.; LandCraft Survey and Engineering Inc., West Allis; and The Home Depot Inc., Wilmington, Del.

With the new lift, it is much easier helping Luis Jr. in and out of the house, Cerda said, and she and her husband are very grateful, she said.

"Everything's perfect now," Cerda said. "It's made things really comfortable."