

Donated home to give family of 9 a lift

Volunteer effort will aid children with disabilities

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MASON - The Wangers and seven of their adopted children will soon have a roomier, more accessible new home. Arlene and Francis Wanger have raised 11 children over the past 46 years, many of whom have multiple disabilities. And they've done it in an 84-year-old farmhouse with one bathroom and six tiny bedrooms.

In July, the Greater Lansing Home Builders Association will begin constructing a 1,768-square-foot home for the family next to the Wangers' current one.

"They thought of everything," said Arlene Wanger, 65. "Even a dishwasher - and we've never even had a dishwasher."

Wanger said she's looking forward to having two-and-a-half bathrooms, space in the garage for a wheelchair lift, larger bedrooms and overall handicap accessibility.

"It's going to be so much easier to move around," she said.

The new ranch home means that Arlene won't have to carry 15-year-old Hannah up and down the stairs any more.

"The Wangers are a very deserving family who need help, and it will be both a pleasure and a challenge to built the Wangers a brand-new home," Mark Voss, who is leading the effort, said in a news release.

To donate money or materials, call the home builders association at 323-3254.