**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NATIONAL FALL PREVENTION WEEK – 2015**

**Home Modifications Provider Partners with Community Agencies to Make a Difference**

In conjunction with National Fall Prevention Week, Home Safety Services of Foster City, California, partnered with the San Mateo County Fall Prevention Task Force and the local Rebuilding Together affiliate to perform senior home safety modifications for three low income, community dwelling seniors in East Palo Alto, CA.

The seniors received a variety of services and counseling to help prevent falls and maintain their independence. Home Safety Services contributed materials and labor of three staff persons to the effort. Another partner, OT House Calls, provided counseling, training and materials as well. Members of the task force and staff and volunteers from Rebuilding Together rounded out the work crews.

In the bathrooms, grab bars, hand-held showers and elevated toilet seats were provided. Custom fabricated stair railings were provided at entrances. One recipient with significant gait issues, received a 24’ long modular aluminum wheelchair ramp (see photos)

All of the services were provided at no charge to the recipients. The retail value of the goods and services provided to the three recipients was in excess of $15,000. In each case, the modifications will greatly increase the likelihood that the recipients will be able to stay in their respective homes longer and more independently.

Martin Simenc, President of Home Safety Services, states: “this is a great example of private companies and community agencies collaborating to meet the needs of at-risk seniors and to highlight the importance of home modifications in preventing falls and maintaining independence. It takes a team of resources to meet the needs of our community dwelling seniors.”

Simenc goes on to say, “that falls do not only happen to the poor. Our middle and upper income seniors are just as likely to experience a life changing fall and also need home modifications. And although funding is an issue for a lot of seniors, awareness (of the importance of home modifications and the resources available to perform them) and inertia (a desire to keep things as they have been) are often equally challenging barriers to overcome.”

This event, scheduled to coincide with National Fall Prevention week, is just the latest chapter in this lengthy and fruitful public/private relationship.

**About Home Safety Services:** Home Safety Services has been pioneering the field of home modifications for nearly twenty years. Through direct service, third party payers and public/private partnerships, Home Safety Services has helped over 30,000 Northern California residents enhance and maintain their safety and independence at home. For more information, visit: www.homesafety.net

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**About Rebuilding Together Peninsula:**  Rebuilding Together Peninsula is a safe and healthy housing organization that believes community starts at home. Our focus provides critical repairs, accessibility modifications and energy efficient upgrades to low-income homes and community centers at no cost to service recipients. For more information, visit: [www.RTPeninsula.org](http://www.RTPeninsula.org).

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**About San Mateo Fall Prevention Task Force:** The mission of the San Mateo Fall Prevention Task Force is to decrease falls among community dwelling older adults through advocacy, resource development and education. The task force brings together a coalition of more than 25 different community provider agencies, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, senior centers and private service providers, all serving older adults in San Mateo County. For more information, visit: www.smcfallprevention.org

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**About OT House Calls:** OT House Calls provides high quality rehabilitation following an event that has impacted your safety and independence while doing your daily activities. OT House Calls is an in-home therapy company comprised of two licensed occupational therapists with over 41 years of clinical experience combined. For more information, visit: www.othousecalls.com

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