

# The Daily Herald.

## Eagle Scout Renovates Cancer Patient Hospitality House

*From Staff Reports*

Sixteen-year-old Columbia Central High School student Will Matlock, son of Annette and Chip Matlock of Columbia, chose The Retreat, a hospitality house for cancer patients, as his Eagle Scout service project this summer. Matlock spent his summer vacation making repairs to the exterior of the house and adding extra safety features for its guests.

According to The Boy Scouts of America, only 5 percent of all Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout rank. To be eligible for the Eagle rank, a scout must perform a service project of significant value to the community. Matlock, of Boy Scout Troop 114, chose one close to his heart.

"The main reason I chose The Retreat for my project is because my grandfather has cancer," said Matlock. "I realize firsthand how important a comfortable, stress-free and home-like environment is for those undergoing treatments."

His project included repairing a concrete ramp, creating a sidewalk, sanding and staining a wood porch, adding slip-resistant paint to the steps of the carport, and installing porch rails.

"The Foundation Board appreciates Will's great contributions to The Retreat," said Darlene Baxter, foundation executive director. "His improvements will be beneficial to the patients using the hospitality house, and I know the patients will be touched when we share with them Will's commitment to helping them during their treatment process."

The Retreat opened in March 2007 as a hospitality house for cancer patients undergoing treatments at the Maury

Regional Hospital Cancer Center. This house provides patients a quiet place to rest between treatments or overnight accommodations for out-of-town patients.

For more information on The Retreat or other Maury Regional Healthcare Foundation endeavors, call 931.380.4075.