Building Wheelchair Ramps in Central Ohio for Those in Need
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Engineers for Community Service

One well established local project ECOS does is building wheelchair accesses at the homes of needy disabled individuals in the Columbus metropolitan area. These accesses are either wheelchair ramps or wheelchair lifts. The students receive referrals from social workers (at OSU Medical Center), churches or other sources. They design and construct the access structures, following Columbus building standards and codes. Since 2006, ECOS has built eight wooden wheelchair ramps and installed one electric wheelchair lift. The projects range in cost from $1,000 to $3,600 and are funded solely by ECOS. This is a continuing project for ECOS; the goal is to complete one to two accesses every school year.

Description

Student Leadership/Contacts

- Kevin Sutton (sutton.205@osu.edu)
  - President of ECOS
- Son Ngo (ngo.35@osu.edu)
  - Vice President of Local Projects
- Jimmy Hynes (hynes.18@osu.edu)
  - Wheelchair Project Leader
- Roger Dzwonczyk (dzwonczyk.1@osu.edu)
  - Project/Faculty Adviser

Each project presents challenges that require innovative designs by the students to meet both Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines and Columbus City building codes.