



The Home Page

A report for the contributors, volunteers, supporters and other friends of the Rebuilding Together - St. Louis family.

Fall 2007

357 Marshall Avenue, Ste. 2 Webster Groves, MO 63119 314.918.9918

www.rebuildingtogether-stl.org

Mrs. Maxey's Story

It is hard to miss the glow of Mrs. Maxey's face when she tells you about the volunteers who came out to assist her with home repairs last spring. "I'm just so grateful", said Mrs. Maxey, "Just looking around at the people working - the volunteers enjoyed what they were doing. I could see it in their faces... they were happy to do it."

Mrs. Maxey has taken care of her husband, Bill Maxey, for many years. Mr. Maxey is 85 years old, has suffered two strokes, has Alzheimer's and is completely bed-ridden. For a short time, Mr. Maxey was in a nursing home, but Mrs. Maxey decided she wanted to take him home, knowing she would be the sole caregiver for her husband. "It is a 24/7 job taking care of my husband, and you do what you have to do. I want to do it. I had to bring him home," said Mrs. Maxey.

But because Mrs. Maxey is so dedicated to her husband's care, it leaves her little time and money to address home repairs. The Maxey's were in desperate need of a roof, which was leaking in three rooms of the house, including Mr. Maxey's bedroom. The Maxey's also had safety concerns that needed to be addressed such as a loose porch handrail, broken glass in several windows, no smoke detectors, and wall and ceiling repairs. "The house wasn't falling in," said Mrs. Maxey, "but it was uncomfortable to me."

Mr. and Mrs. Maxey were ideal candidates for Rebuilding Together-St. Louis's home repair program. They are both elderly individuals, Mr. Maxey is completely disabled, they are living on a fixed income, they own their own home and want to stay in their home. Rebuilding Together sent out volunteers multiple times to preview the home and make a detailed scope of work.

On Saturday, April 21, 2007, more than 30 volunteers converged on the Maxey home with enthusiasm and determination. In the course of an eight-hour day, volunteers repaired ceilings damaged by years of the roof leaking, installed grab bars in order for Mrs. Maxey to get in and out of the tub, and cleared loads of brush out of the backyard making the Maxey's home less vulnerable to intruders. Many other repairs were done at the Maxey's home on that day, but for all the goods and materials, Mrs. Maxey is most grateful for the efforts made to make their home more comfortable and safe.

Mrs. Maxey wrote Rebuilding Together a thank you note stating, "I never knew a work day could be so much fun. Everyone involved was so very pleasant. There was so much togetherness, laughter, love and even tears of emotion. I couldn't help but show tears of gratitude because I could see such sincerity in the hearts of everyone."

If you found Mrs. Maxey's story to be inspirational then please consider making a gift to Rebuilding Together in her name. Details on how to make such a gift can be found on page three. Such a gift will allow the organization to help more people like Mr. and Mrs. Maxey.



Feeling Creative?

Want to be famous? The Home Page is looking for a new name, and we want you to name it. Contact Jess Winters at jwinters@rebuildingtogether-stl.org or by phone at (314) 918-9918 ext 26. All names will be reviewed and voted on by a discerning group of individuals (that's means all of you) after the publication of the submissions in the next issue of The Home Page.

A HUGE

THANK YOU!

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A HUGE

THANK YOU!

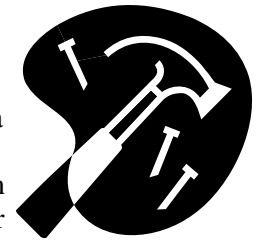
2007 Major In-Kind Donors

John J. Downs
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 IBEW Local #1/NECA
 Richard Kohlen
 Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562
 Rigid Tool Company
 Becky Schrottenboer
 Sheet Metal Workers Local #36
 Jerry Strickland
 Janice Starbuck

Calling All House Captains

Can you believe it?! Yes, it's that time of the year to rally up House Captains for Rebuilding Day 2008 which will be held on Saturday, April 19th.

What is a House Captain you ask? First of all you don't have to be a professional contractor or a tradesman (although it may help), you just need to be energetic and dedicated to getting the job completed. The house captain acts as the project leader on an individual house. He or she is responsible for communicating with the homeowner, selecting tasks to be completed from previously identified work, using a Rebuilding Together credit card to purchase materials needed to repair the home on Rebuilding Day, and also arranging for the delivery of those materials to the home.



On Rebuilding Day, the House Captain is the site supervisor and leader, directing the enthusiasm and energy of a group of around 20 volunteers normally. Volunteers are both skilled and unskilled, and the Rebuilding Together staff assigns skilled trades people to the houses that need them. And the last act of every house captain is to celebrate a job well done with your dedicated crew!

If you are interested in being a House Captain for the 2008 Rebuilding Day, please fill out a House Captain form, which can be found on our website (www.rebuildingtogether-stl.org) or call Jessie Conner, Program Director, at 314-918-9918 ext. 24.



(Left) Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 562 accept the Keystone Builders Award



(Right) IBEW Local #1 accepts the Keystone Builder award.

Helping Hands of Skilled Trades

Just a few weeks ago Rebuilding Together presented Glaziers, Architectural Metal & Glass Workers Local 513, Sheet Metal Workers Local 36, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562, and Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1 with plaques celebrating their Keystone Builder status. These unions are important and essential to the work that Rebuilding Together does. This past year these four unions combined to donate over \$210,000 in parts and labor!

The Glaziers did such work as repairing windows that many of the most skilled handyman would not have been able to do. The Sheet Metal Workers not only donated of their time to fix many heating, cooling, and gutter problems, but also donated several new air conditioning units. The Plumbers and Pipefitters have worked tirelessly to replace fixtures and plumbing in an astonishing number of homes. The Electrical Workers Union replaces light switches, receptacles, light fixtures, and even main electrical panels. Without these men and



Sheet Metal Workers Local 36 accepts the award



Glaziers Local 513 accepts the award

women there would still be broken windows, leaky plumbing, non-functioning heating and air conditioning units, electrical hazards, and a number of other hazards in homes across the St. Louis area. They have shown themselves to truly be caring members of the St. Louis area by giving of themselves to help strangers.

We, the staff and board at Rebuilding Together, and all the homeowners that you have been able to help, want to say thank you for all that you have done. We would not be able to do it without your help.

Extreme Makeover

Due to the relationship with Sears at a national level, Rebuilding Together will be featured in a minimum of four episodes of the national television program *Extreme Makeover – Home Edition*. Rebuilding Together will rebuild a minimum of four community centers within the community of the selected extreme makeover house. Our role, at present, will be to provide an army of skilled and unskilled volunteers to work on a community center selected by the homeowner. We have been informed that up to seven minutes of prime time coverage will be devoted to the community build at the back end of each show.

The national office of Rebuilding Together is partnering with Sears again, and also adding the partnership of K-Mart. These companies are pairing up to create a new fund available for the Rebuilding Together affiliates called Heroes at Home. These new available funds will focus on improving the lives of veterans and military families in need across America by making necessary repairs, improvements or modifications to their homes. The program will fill the gaps in housing modifications and repair services that retired and active service men and women struggle to meet.

Also through the national office, plans are underway to secure AmeriCorps members for the local affiliates. AmeriCorps can be thought of as a domestic “Peace Corps” Rebuilding Together—St. Louis is hoping to be able to host 2 full time volunteers for 11 months starting in September of 2008. AmeriCorps members receive a living stipend as well as a college stipend.

On top of those new programs the national initiative, Rebuild 1000, continues! As a result of the commitment of Rebuilding Together, 266 homeowners are back in their homes so far. We have already made a tremendous impact, but are still working towards the goal of 1000 homes being rehabilitated in New Orleans. Last January Rebuilding Together – St. Louis arranged for 40 volunteers to spend one week working on homes in New Orleans. The plans are to go to the Gulf Coast again. Please contact Lynne Rajani at lrajani@rebuildingtogether-stl.org if you are interested.

In Honor of...

On September 22nd the wedding bells were ringing as Robert Thompson and Elizabeth Drown were married. Rebuilding Together would like to take the opportunity to wish Robert and Elizabeth Thompson a blessed marriage and happy future together. This fantastic couple opted out of the usual five toasters and a bread-maker for their wedding presents, and instead asked that people make a donation to Rebuilding Together in honor of their marriage. When asked why it is that they felt moved to ask for tributes in their names they said, *“We have seen the work we did as volunteers greatly improve the lives of the homeowners as well as all the volunteers. These efforts improve the entire St Louis community, both physically and morally.”* It is gifts like this that allow Rebuilding Together to help our clients.



Do you know someone with a birthday, anniversary, wedding, or any other special occasion in their life coming up? If you do, consider making a tribute to Rebuilding Together in their name. The honoree will receive a card stating that you made a gift in their name. Or maybe you have a birthday, anniversary, wedding, or any other special occasion coming up? If you do, please consider asking people make a donation to Rebuilding Together in your name. These gifts will help restore not just a home, but a life too.

A HUGE

THANK YOU!

2007

Volunteer Groups

Addus HealthCare
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Trade School
Andrew Robinson's crew
Blues Alumni
Bob Spirk's crew
Buckingham Asset Management
Dana Wiegel's crew
Delahanty Construction
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
First Christian Church of Florissant
Gateway Christian Church
Gene McKittrick's crew
Glendale Presbyterian Church
Grace Church
Grainger
Hillside Presbyterian
Hughes
ISC St. Louis (FOT)
Jack & Jill of America, Inc.
Jefferson County Committee
Partnership
Kimberlin Group
Kuhn Construction
Ladies Night Out
Mark Aubuchon's crew
Mark Bisig's crew
New Orleans crew
NSI
Paric
Parkway High School
Popular Leasing
Salem-in-Ballwin United
Methodist Church
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
TLC Consulting
Venture Crew 677
Youth Build St. Louis

In addition to these volunteer groups many of our major donors and major in-kind donors also brought a large number of volunteers.

We apologize if in any of these thank-you sections we have omitted anyone who has contributed to our efforts.

ArtFix2007 Looking for a Good Time?

Have plans for Saturday November 10th? Are you going to an art show? Maybe to a concert? Maybe going to a bar? Maybe even just sitting around eating chocolate? Well why not come to ArtFix 2007 and do it all? That's right folks, Rebuilding Together- St. Louis is having our first annual art show and auction complete with live music from the Curt Landes Band, an open bar, and tasty treats from places like Bailey's Chocolate Bar, Vin De Set, Kirk's Traveling Kitchen, Moxy, Niche, and more!

Along with all of the fabulous entertainment you have the opportunity to view and bid on fabulous pieces of art and some amazing gift items. Participating artists include Eric Thaelke, Mark Katzman, Scott Ferguson, Jenna Bauer & Michael Shaw. "Thousands of St. Louisans have donated their sweat equity and time to help us repair more than 1200 homes throughout the St. Louis area," said Lynne Rajani, executive director of Rebuilding Together-St. Louis. "Now, we hope to encourage the entire community to participate in a celebratory evening to help raise needed funds to buy home repair supplies."

Silent Auction items will include everything from a hot air balloon ride for two from Re/Max to a vacation in Mexico to Coach handbags. "With the holiday season right around the corner, we think every guest will find a unique and special gift during the evening," says Rajani.

It sounds too good to be true, doesn't it? Well, it isn't, and it gets even better. Not only is it a fabulous night of entertainment, but all the proceeds go to benefit the clients that Rebuilding Together serves!

So buy a ticket for yourself, buy tickets for your favorite clients, or buy 10 tickets and become an honorary host for the evening! The event will be located in the FK Photo Studio at 2745 Locust, and includes free valet parking. To buy tickets or find additional information on the event you can go to www.artfix07.com or contact Laura Hurt at (314) 918-9918, Lhurt@rebuildingtogether-stl.org, or by smoke signal.



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Rebuilding Together - St. Louis
357 Marshall Avenue, Suite 2
St. Louis, MO 63119 - 1839
www.rebuildingtogether-stl.org
Tel. 314.918.9918
Fax 314.918.9920

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