



# The TOOLBOX Times

## Project Day Recap

# Creating safe, healthy homes year round

By JESSIE CONNER  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**R**ebuilding Together – St. Louis staff, board, and volunteers are currently preparing for Rebuilding Day 2010. Over two hundred homeowners submitted applications and many of those homeowners have been visited by volunteers. Along the way, we are also completing projects. By helping one home and one life at a time, we are closer to the vision of creating a safe and healthy home for every person.

For National Day of Service in September the local company, Mr. Handyman, assisted Mr. and Mrs. Kelly who are in their late seventies by completing home modifications, repairing and painting gutters, installing a handrail to the basement, and completing other safety repairs. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have cherished their home for over thirty years.

Mr. Kelly was overjoyed by the dedicated volunteers from Mr. Handyman. “They helped me very much. All the volunteers did a beautiful job” said Mr. Kelly.

Michael Fitzsimmons, owner of Mr. Handyman of St. Louis – West County, recruited many of his employees to volunteer. Mr. Fitzsimmons said, “Rebuilding Together was a natural partner for us to do volunteer work on the National Day of Service. We wanted to give back to the community and partner with an organization that would make good use of the skill set of our employees and thus maximize the benefit provided to those in need. It was a great experience for my employees and for me personally.”

Including Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, Rebuilding Together – St. Louis volunteers assisted over 20 homeowners through various projects within the last few months. Our dedicated R.T... Express team installed grab bars, repaired steps, and provided much needed safety repairs for numerous home-



Volunteers from Mr. Handyman pose for a picture with Mr. Kelly.

“They helped me very much. All the volunteers did a beautiful job.”

—Mr. Kelly

owners. Volunteers from Grace Presbyterian Church reached out and helped an older adult woman living by herself. The Home Depot will assist five homeowners in the St. Louis area later this month. The Home Depot volunteers will build ramps, repair doors, repair a porch, paint a home, and much more!

Throughout the year, Rebuilding Together is working towards creating a safe and healthy home for every person by changing one home and one life at a time.

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314.918.9918 • [www.rebuildingtogether-stl.org](http://www.rebuildingtogether-stl.org)

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### Our Mission

To bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners.

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## A letter from the Executive Director

# New Executive Director begins post, looks forward to future

BY DAVE ERVIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

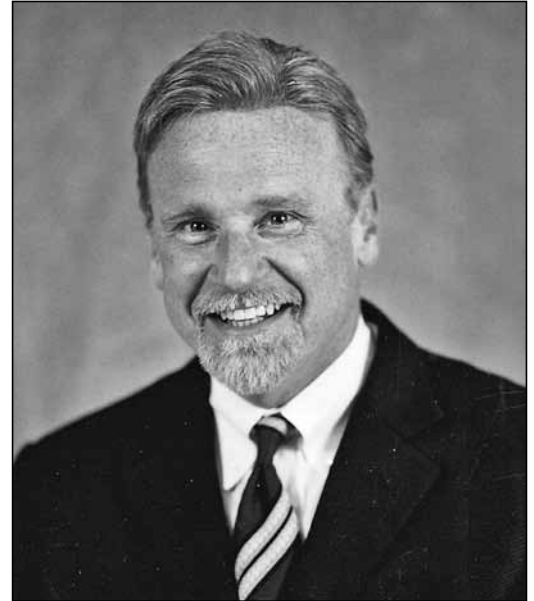
**O**n September 8<sup>th</sup>, I began my assignment as your new Executive Director for Rebuilding Together-St. Louis.

It is indeed an honor. I am grateful to the Rebuilding Together-St. Louis board of directors for bringing me on board.

This marks a career change for me from a 37 year media career into this esteemed service organization. "Service" is what is so exciting to me about Rebuilding Together. St. Louis as a region is in need of much revitalization. Part of that revitalization involves volunteers helping people who can't help themselves. While there are so many areas in need of volunteer assistance, few are as important as helping low-income homeowners, especially older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Rebuilding Together has a lofty vision of creating a safe and healthy home for every person. This of course takes great resources. As such we're grateful for our most valuable resources...our 2500 volunteers...our generous corporate and individual donors...and Rebuilding Together's dedicated staff.

In the course of the past year, Rebuilding Together-St. Louis has improved the homes and lives of almost 180 homeowners. 105 of those homes are improved on ONE day per year, "RE-BUILDING DAY." Throughout the year, you'll



find volunteers with paint brushes, hammers, lumber, electrical and plumbing supplies, working together to turn a problematic house into a safe and comfortable environment.

Our grand vision dictates that we build our resources and build the agency's capacity to rebuild more and more homes and lives into the future. In that regard, please continue to spread the word far and wide about Rebuilding Together-St. Louis.

Warmest regards, and Happy Rebuilding!

## Board of Directors

### Jim Buford, President of Urban League joins RT-STL Board

BY STAFF

**R**ebuilding Together is proud to announce the appointment of James H. Buford to its board of directors. James Buford, a native of St. Louis, is the President and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. He has been at this post since 1985.

The Urban League is a

human service not-for-profit organization which assists African Americans and others in the achievement of social and economic equality. It conducts programs and provides services to the community in education, employment, housing community organization and cultural enrichment. The Urban League and Rebuilding Together St.



Jim Buford

Louis are currently forging a partnership to help improve the homes of low-income St. Louis homeowners.

Jim and his wife Susan reside in St. Louis, MO. He has two sons, James Jr. and Jason.

Rebuilding Together-St. Louis welcomes Jim Buford!

## Upcoming Events • Art Fix Art Auction & Party

# Art Auction, party mends area homes, lives

BY LAURA HURT  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Area artists, local restaurateurs and community supporters will come together for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *ArtFix*: Mending Homes and Lives through Art from 7–11 p.m. on Saturday, November 21 at Third Degree Glass Factory, located at 5200 Delmar in St. Louis. *ArtFix* is a unique event featuring original art, food and silent auctions to benefit our low-income homeowners.

Tickets are just \$35 in advance and include valet parking, generous food samplings and beverages from some of the area's finest restaurants including Baileys' Chocolate Bar, Vin de Set, Square One Brewery, SqWires and Ricardo's. Beverage sponsors include Anheuser-Busch Companies, Firefly Vodka and Fitz's. Unique works from 27 local and national artists will be on display and available for auction, as well as a large variety of silent auction items, including massage packages, beer and wine tours, weekend getaways and more.

"This is a unique opportunity for collectors as well as anyone interested in fabulous art to purchase pieces while helping the less fortunate in our area," said Melissa Hensley, volunteer chairperson of *ArtFix*. "The entire art community has embraced this event, and the donated art includes paintings, photographs, sculpture, silkscreens, cartoons, blown glass and pottery." Artists include Mark Katzman, Michael Shaw, John Vogl, Jeff Kapfer, Kate Duncan & Ashley Kopp.

*ArtFix* will be emceed by Scott Mosby, host of "The Home Improvement Show" on KMOX. Music provided by the Matt Rowland Band.

More information and tickets are available online at [artfixstl.com](http://artfixstl.com) or by calling 314.918.9918 ext. 21.



Art Fix 2008: Partygoers enjoyed local art and tastings from such Baileys' Chocolate Bar, SqWires, Butler's Pantry and Square One Brewery.

### THE 411

#### What

Art Fix Art Auction & Party

#### When

Sat. Nov. 21 @ 7pm

#### Where

Third Degree Glass Factory  
5200 Delmar, STL MO



#### Cost

\$35 in advance  
\$40 at the door

#### More info

[artfixstl.com](http://artfixstl.com)

## Upcoming Events • HGTV Viewing Party

# Party at Moolah Theatre this Veterans Day

*Local man wins HGTV makeover for home to help other veterans*

Bring your family, friends and co-workers to join us for the exciting television debut of *Change the World: American Heroes*, the cable television special about the renovations and the lives of American heroes, including several St. Louisians, which airs on HGTV on Veterans Day, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. central.

Hence Forland, 57, has been pouring his own money and sweat equity into the aging house he opened to homeless St. Louis veterans in need of transitional housing. The brick two-story, which is just down the street from the John Cochran

VA Medical Center in north St. Louis' 19th Ward, was in dire need of rewiring and plumbing work -- and even ceilings -- until the remodeling began, thanks to volunteers from Rebuilding Together-St. Louis and a donation from HGTV. The Windsor Transitional House transformation will take air this Veterans Day.

Thanks to Charter Communications, Rubin-Brown and Mosby Building Arts, you can watch it on the big screen at the beautiful Moolah Theatre as we celebrate veterans and volunteers!

—RT STAFF AND ST. LOUIS BEACON

### THE 411

#### What

HGTV Viewing Party  
*Change the World: American Heroes*

#### When

Wed. Nov. 11 @ 6pm

#### Where

Moolah Theater  
3821 Lindell Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63108

#### Cost

Free

#### More info

[rebuildingtogether-stl.org](http://rebuildingtogether-stl.org)

# Night of jazz, volunteerism gets RT-STL message out

BY ZACH WOOD  
AMERICORPS MEMBER

This August Rebuilding Together National asked all of the current AmeriCorps members to participate in President Obama's United We Serve national service initiative ([www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov)) by assembling and distributing 500 Energy Efficiency Outreach Bags in targeted neighborhoods. The bags contained useful information about conserving energy along with information about Rebuilding Together's services.

I worked closely with 21<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman Antonio French and his staff to recruit volunteers from the community and to determine the best distribution method. The 21<sup>st</sup> Ward collaborated with the Sheldon Concert Hall to put on a series of jazz concerts to unite the community and retake a local park from gang activity. We agreed that setting up a table at this event would be an excellent way to demonstrate our partnership with the Alderman and increase awareness of our programs.

The Alderman's office put me in touch with the neighborhood association and community leaders to source volunteers

before the concert. I also reached out to the local AmeriCorps office and had some members join us. I then reached out to the Urban League and they sent out Fred Shelton their Assistant Director of Weatherization Services to join us with information about their program.

We all met up at the alderman's office the afternoon before the concert to assemble the bags. This proved to be a great chance to meet community leaders, let them see our collaboration with the Alderman and to show them that AmeriCorps/Rebuilding Together really wants to serve their needs. The volunteers then helped load the bags, tables, chairs, etc. and transport them to the park to set up.

Our board president, Paul Williams, Fred Shelton and I set up our table before the concert started and were instantly inundated with interested community members. It was a great night that allowed us to have extended conversations with members of the community and get our message out. The success of this project has provided many great opportunities for Rebuilding Together-St. Louis to expand our capacity to serve the region through new partnerships!



Volunteers assemble energy efficiency outreach bags and information on Rebuilding Together-St. Louis' services for residents of the city's 21st Ward.



Keep up with what's on the horizon in the next few months.

## November 2009

Nov. 11: HGTV Moolah Theater Viewing Party – 6pm

Nov. 21: ArtFix Silent Auction and Party – 7pm

## December 2009

House Previewing wrapping up

## January 2010

House Captain Recruitment begins

## February 2010

Final House Selections made

## March 2010

House Captain Meetings

## April 2010

Homeowner Meetings

## May 2010

May 1: Rebuilding Day

## The Sponsors of Rebuilding Together - St. Louis

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

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## Volunteer Opportunities

# Join the RT-St. Louis volunteer community!

BY STAFF

**A**re you bored with your everyday routine? Are you looking to meet new people and give back to your community at the same time? Now is your chance to join the community of Rebuilding Together – St. Louis volunteers!

Here is a list of our current volunteer opportunities:

- Lead a team of volunteers on Rebuilding Day as a **House Captain**.
- Help organize the job site and work with our homeowners on Rebuilding Day as a **Volunteer Coordinator**.
- Preview homes for Rebuilding Day on the **House Selection & Work Evaluator Committees**.
- Help with data entry, filing, and other projects as an **Office Volunteer**.
- Help plan Trivia Night or ArtFix on the **Special Events Committee**.

Please visit the Web site, [www.rebuildingtogether-stl.org](http://www.rebuildingtogether-stl.org) for more details. If you are interested in joining the R.T. volunteer community, please contact Jessie Conner at [jconner@rebuildingtogether-stl.org](mailto:jconner@rebuildingtogether-stl.org) or call 314-918-9918 ext. 24.



*“The reason why I volunteer with R.T... is to help someone who has done all that they can on their own and needs a boost. I also enjoy getting out and meeting people; a lot of our applicants are older and many have interesting stories to tell about their lives. I also really enjoy getting to see parts of St. Louis I’ve never seen before, or parts that I have seen but never really knew who lived there. I preview mostly North St. Louis City and County homes. I always hear how dangerous it is, but I get to see the people who live there and are not dangerous, those just trying to live their lives. It puts a new perspective on the city that I live in.”*

—Natasha Ramey  
House Selection volunteer

## Thank You

# Newly married couple finds a unique way to support charity



**R**ebuilding Together-St. Louis is fortunate to have generous volunteers and donors like Scott and Jenny Bopp who decided that in lieu of traditional wedding favors at their recent nuptials, they would designate a couple worthy charities to donate to. Rebuilding Together was one of the recipients of their generosity. Jenny Bopp tells us, “We decided to make a charitable donation for everyone in attendance rather than opt for traditional favors. We felt that the best gift that we could give was the gift of helping others. With the cost of weddings rising and people feeling the financial pinch (including non-profits), it seemed impractical to allocate money for favors which some think are frivolous and are often not wanted. When choosing the charities, we looked for local non-profits that support the Saint Louis community. We had previously volunteered with Rebuilding Together, and tremendously enjoyed the experience. We decided to choose them as one of our charitable donations to both help a great cause, but also to bring this wonderful organization to our guests’ attention.”

—STAFF

## Homeowner Profile



### BIOGRAPHY

**Name**

Hence Forland

**Family**

1 daughter

1 grandson

**Neighborhood**

Covenant-Bleu

**Repair Date**

June 2009

**Repair Done**

Complete home rehab:  
Drywall, painting,  
carpentry, tuckpointing – everything!

**Best thing about the repairs**

The breakfast room where the guys can eat together

## HENCE FORLAND

In 1994, Desert Storm veteran Hence J. Forland bought the home that would become the Windsor Transitional House with the hope of creating a place for veterans to find emergency shelter and transitional housing. After his own experience returning from active duty, Forland decided to help other veterans in their often difficult transition back to civilian life. Windsor Transitional House offers spiritual support, transportation, job placement services and aid for substance abuse. The two-story, four-bedroom home, which is located within walking distance of the John Cochran Veterans' Administration Medical Center, also gives veterans easy access to public transportation, groceries and community resources.

Windsor Transitional House was renovated by a dedicated group of volunteers, support from local sponsors and HGTV. Change the World: American Heroes, the HGTV special about the renovations and the lives of the American heroes who live in the home will air on Veterans Day, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. Join us for a free evening at the Moolah Theatre from 6-9 p.m. to watch it on the big screen and celebrate our volunteers!

## Home Tips by Scott Mosby

# Get your home ready for the colder months with Fall maintenance tips



**Scott Mosby** is President of Mosby Building Arts, Ltd. and hosts the "KMOX Home Improvement Show". Each Saturday, from 11 am to 2 pm.

BY SCOTT MOSBY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

Here are some fall maintenance tips that can make your cooler months much more pleasant.

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries.
- Disconnect hoses from outside spigots. Remove all paints, caulks and liquid materials from garage or garden sheds.
- Winterize lawn, plants and shrubs. Seed, mulch and collect leaves.
- Clean and vacuum dust from vents, baseboard heaters and cold-air returns.
- Inspect weather-stripping around doors and windows and repair or replace as needed.
- Set thermostats and ductwork dampers for winter.
- Clean gutters and downspouts during and after falling leaf season.
- Maintain your emergency power generator.
- Clean outside window wells and exterior basement stairs for clear drainage.
- Prepare snow shovels, snow blower and winter-care tools.
- Winterize automobiles.
- Recharge or replace fire extinguishers with expired dates.

- Service and lubricate overhead garage doors and all operating parts.
- Clean dishwasher, trash compactor and counter top appliances.
- Maintain outdoor lighting in working order. Inspect fixtures and outlets for weather damage and replace bulbs.

**Save  
the Date**

**Rebuilding Day  
May 1st**



St. Louis

357 Marshall Avenue  
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**Art Auction & Party**  
**Nov 21 @ 7pm**  
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