



THE HOME PAGE

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

Winter 2006-2007

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www.rebuildingtogether-stl.org

An Insider's Peek at the Volunteer Experience

In the words of Phyllis Hardcastle, Rebuilding Together Volunteer and Member of the Board

Make a Difference Day is a national day of service that occurs each October, and Rebuilding Together—St. Louis works to organize at least one volunteer project each year to mark the event. Phyllis Hardcastle, a volunteer, board member, and member of the House Selection Committee recalls a particular Make a Difference Day and a homeowner whose enthusiasm touched the Rebuilding Together crew that worked to repair her home. The extensive repairs and ongoing work done on the home are a great example of how Rebuilding Together can bring community members together to make a difference in lives of our volunteers as well as the homeowners they serve.

‘On Make A Difference Day, a team of 18 volunteers from Popular Leasing descended on the home of Helen Moore. Mrs. Moore’s home was in need of many repairs and according to Helen, the city wanted to condemn the house!

Like so many of our elderly clients, Helen Moore had been living in her house for over thirty years. Before her husband died, the couple appeared to live a “middle America” lifestyle. However, when Helen was widowed, she had to live alone on a fixed income. There was no money for home maintenance, so the house slowly deteriorated. She is ill and confined to a wheelchair, so she was unable to make many of the home repairs herself. Her son helps as he is able, but the complexity of projects was greater than one person could possibly have managed.

Some of the projects we worked on that day included finding the source of—and stopping—water leaks in the upstairs bathroom and in Helen’s first-floor bedroom. It turned out that squirrels in the attic had gnawed through the upstairs ceiling. The squirrels had also found holes in the soffit and made a home in Mrs. Moore’s attic. Rebuilding Together arranged for a pest exterminator to come in prior to Make A Difference Day to remove the squirrels and put a temporary cover over the holes. On our workday, we had a couple of handymen make further repairs to the soffit.

Popular Leasing volunteers worked to reinforce the floor in the main level bathroom. We removed vines growing up the exterior of the house and painted the living room and dining room. Mrs. Moore also had requested a handicap ramp, but her local city required detailed architectural plans in order to obtain the permit to install a ramp on the home. That day, we reinforced the back porch to prepare it for a ramp, which RT was later able to install.



A team of volunteers working on the side of a house. RT works to make homes, like that of Mrs. Moore, safe and secure.



Volunteers not only make home repairs but also get the chance to meet members of their community: homeowners and other volunteers.

Mrs. Moore’s home also had a water leak in the upstairs bathroom. Our plumber removed the toilet only to discover that the waste stack was cracked. As a result, there was considerable water damage to the dining room below. Our crew removed a 4’ x 8’ section of plaster, cut through the laths and readied the wall for a plumbing contractor to come in and replace the waste stack. After the stack was replaced, we returned to Mrs. Moore’s home to drywall and paint the dining room, living room, and hallway.

Mrs. Moore was so thankful for our work. She is a gracious lady, and everyone truly enjoyed working with her. At the end of the day, even without all projects completed, she told us that she was feeling more secure in her home. Throughout the following weeks, as we continued to work on and finally completed the long term projects, her enthusiasm never wavered.’

A HUGE

THANK YOU!

2006 Major Donors

AARP
Affordable Housing Trust Fund
Ameren
Ameristar Casino St. Charles
Anheuser-Busch Companies
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
Banco Popular Foundation, Inc.
Barry Wehmiller
Behlman Builders Inc.
Boeing Employees Comm. Fund
Booz, Allen, Hamilton Inc.
Ceridian Employer Services
CH2M HILL
Citigroup
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Countrywide Mortgage
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Emerson
Emerson Appliance Motors
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Emerson Heating & Air Cond. Motors
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Emerson Industrial Motors
Emerson Motor Company
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Emerson Tool Company
Feed My People
First Bank
Forum Studio
Clayco Construction
Gannett Foundation
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Glaziers Local #513
Grace Episcopal Church
HOK
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St. John's Bank & Trust Co.
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Wal-Mart
Washington Univ. Medical Center
Westfield Shoppingtown - NW Plz.
White-Rodgers

Am I House Captain Material?

Many of you have expressed interest in becoming a House Captain on Rebuilding Day. Naturally, you're wondering what the job entails. The House Captain is truly one of the most critical positions for a successful Rebuilding Day.

House Captains become involved after a home has been selected by the House Selection Committee and after the scope of work has been defined. House Captains then visit the home, meet the homeowner, review the work scope (budget, materials, and skilled and unskilled volunteers) and make changes as needed.

With a Rebuilding Together credit card, the House Captain purchases materials and arranges for delivery. On Rebuilding Day, the House Captain is the site supervisor and leader, directing the **enthusiasm and energy** of a group of around 20 volunteers. Volunteers are both skilled and unskilled, and the Rebuilding Together staff assigns skilled trades people to the houses that need them. At the end of the day, you celebrate a job well done with your dedicated crew!

House Captains can either join through a volunteer or sponsor group or volunteer as individuals. Rebuilding Together provides assistance throughout the process, including (and especially!) on Rebuilding Day, for the approximately 100 House Captains needed. **You are not alone!**

The position of House Captain is an outstanding opportunity for those with experience and skill to maximize their contribution to the Rebuilding Day effort! As of now, we are still in need of 30 House Captains. We hope you'll fill out the enclosed volunteer form and consider volunteering as a House Captain today! Please call Jessie at 314.918.9918 if you have any questions.



"On Rebuilding Day, the House Captain is the site supervisor and leader, directing the enthusiasm and energy of a group of volunteers."

A few of our favorite things...

A Rebuilding Together New Years wish list.

As we ring in the new year, the Rebuilding Together staff is thankful for the blessings of 2006 and excited for all that will be happening in 2007. In the past year, RT has changed the lives of hundreds, thanks to the generosity of St. Louis residents and businesses, and for the third consecutive year, RT has received a 4-star rating - the highest possible - from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities. We could not have done it without you!

This year, we are looking forward to another successful Rebuilding Day, a trip to New Orleans, and the celebration of the 100,000th house! There are so many ways you can be a part of Rebuilding Together in 2007, so in the spirit of New Years resolutions and hope for the year to come, here is a wish list from us to you. These are some small things (and a few big things, too) that could make this year as good as—or even better than—the last.

- Disposable cameras
- Boxes of sandwich bags
- Cases of sturdy trash bags
- Full size refrigerator for the office
- Gas cards for the RT group traveling to New Orleans
- Folks with pick-up trucks to help on Rebuilding Day
- Energetic office volunteers!!
- House Captains and Rebuilding Day volunteers
- Paint or gift certificates for Rebuilding Day supplies
- **YOUR IDEAS** for making Rebuilding Together better than ever!

Celebrate the 100,000th House

Rebuilding Together, along with a select group of U.S. cities, will be celebrating the rehabilitation of 100,000 homes nationwide!

Rebuilding Together, the nation's largest volunteer-based provider of home-repair services, is marking the rehabilitation of its 100,000th house with a six-month-plus celebration that highlights rebuilding events in cities and communities throughout America, including here in St. Louis.

The goal is to focus attention on the work done by more than 3 million volunteers and the delivery of approximately \$1 billion in home rehabilitation services since its inception 18 years ago. In St. Louis alone, this spring the local affiliate will have made the difference in the lives of 1,015 families! To mark these milestones, Rebuilding Together – St. Louis will be rebuilding a home in early March.

“Rebuilding Together is proud to be marking this major milestone in the organization's history,” said Rebuilding Together's new president and CEO, Gary A. Officer. “The 100,000th House Celebration is our way of thanking the thousands of supporters and volunteers – ranging from individuals to corporate, association, faith-based, labor, civic and foundation-based organizations – who have come together to deliver warmth, safety and independence to persons in need in neighborhoods across the United States.”

“As we mark the occasion of having rehabbed 100,000 houses, it is Rebuilding Together's hope that more sponsors and volunteers will join us in our mission,” said Officer.

Please call Lynne Rajani at 314-918-9918 or email at lrajani@rebuildingtogether-stl.org to sponsor or volunteer for our 100,000th House Celebration.

What this small envelope means to our homeowners...

When you make a gift to Rebuilding Together, you make a real difference in our community. Each dollar donated goes directly toward providing a helping hand to those who need it most.

Your contribution helps keep elderly, disabled, and low-income families in the St. Louis area independent, comfortable, and safe.

Your generous gift will help pay for important improvements, including:

- **\$5** - will buy easy-to-turn rubber faucet handles or a simple grab bar
- **\$10** - will cover the cost of caulk and weather stripping
- **\$25** - will purchase grab bars, paint, a roller, and paint brushes
- **\$50** - will go towards exterior paint, shutters, and deck stain
- **\$100** - will buy a new bathroom vanity or roofing materials
- **\$150** - will pay for a new, see-through storm door
- **\$200** - will purchase a new window
- **\$500** - will go towards building materials such as windows or a ramp
- **\$2,500** - will purchase a Rebuilding Day house Sponsorship

Please help us reach our fundraising goals for 2006-2007!! Each donation helps us to further our mission of keeping our neighbors safe and secure in their homes. If you donate now, you can have the satisfaction of knowing that your contribution will enable us to make some of the emergency heat repairs that so many seniors need to keep them warm this winter.

A HUGE

THANK YOU!

2006 Major In-Kind Donors

Andover Inspection
Aristocrat Cabinets
Aspen Waste Systems Inc.
Bert Athens
Atlas Plumbing Supply
The Barb and Ted Band
Byrne & Jones Construction
CC's Depot Dogs
College Container & Disposal
Melissa Cook
Crescent Plumbing
John Downs
Einstein Brothers Bagels
Emerson Hermetic Motors
Fedex Kinkos
Alpha Fence
Ferguson Supply
Fire Tech
Mary Fredericksen
French Gerleman
Gateway Representatives
Don & Darla Gibson
Glaziers Local 513
Grey Eagle Distributors
Todd & Chris Hessel
Horizon Glass
Int. Brotherhood of Elect. Workers #1
Irwin Tools
Jim Butler Chevrolet
JMCS
Kim Jones
Nick Koranda
JS Express
JS Logistics
Kat and Mouse Interiors
Kitchen & Bath Design
Kuhn Construction
Lowe's Home Improv. Warehouse
Don Matthes
McBride & Son Homes
McCarthy Building Company
Marty McClimens
Milford Plumbing
Miracle Supply
Moen, Inc.
National Sales
Occupational Therapists
Overhead Door Co.
Owen Development
Petry Roof Supply
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562
Plumbers Supply Co.
Kenny Poteet
Quiznos Subs
Rebuilding Day House Captains
Rebuilding Day Volunteers
Rex Supplies
Richard Kohnen
RV Wagner Construction
Bill Sanders
Sheet Metal Works Local 36
Specialty Sales & Service
Janice Starbuck
Starbucks Coffee
Jerry Strickland
Tallman Co.
Franklen & Abraham Construction
Various Home Inspectors
Vee Jay Cement Contracting
Vernon Casimere
Kevin Wallace
Wachter Construction
Waste Management of St. Louis
Watts Co.
Wholesales Plumbing Supply
Williams Office Machines

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

Rebuild 1000! Lending a hand in New Orleans.

St. Louis Volunteers Travel to the Gulf Coast...

On January 21, 2007 thirty-eight St. Louis volunteers will head to New Orleans to help local residents rebuild their lives and their city.

Nationally, Rebuilding Together has made a commitment to **Rebuild 1000** homes that were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. When Rebuilding Together—St. Louis put out the word, the response from the community was clear: St. Louisans are eager to join in the efforts! House Captains and volunteers will be joining up for a week-long trip to New Orleans.

The “**Rebuild 1000!**” campaign began in Fall '05 when RT received a \$1.5 million grant from Countrywide Financial Corp. The grant allows us to rebuild the homes of families left homeless by the storms. So far, over 150 hurricane victims' homes have been repaired by RT volunteers. While that is quite an accomplishment, it is a long way from our 1000 home goal, and there is still great need in the region.

This trip is currently full, but with enough community interest, future trips may be organized!

If you have been wondering how you can help out in New Orleans, this may be your opportunity. Through donations, food and lodging is provided to volunteers, and in the words of past volunteers, “the work is life-altering.” We have a major need for skilled trades, but there is work for all.

If you are interested, contact Lynne Rajani at 314-918-9918.

A HUGE

THANK YOU!

'06 Volunteer groups

AARP
Adapt-Ability
Addas HealthCare
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
ASCE-YM
A Woman's Touch Remodeling
Barry Wehmiller
Bevo/Armark
Boeing Company
Booz, Allen, Hamilton Inc.
CCS Group
Ceridian Employer Services
CH2M HILL
Citigroup
Clarkson Eyecare
Collaborative School
Colliers Turley Martin Tucker
Countrywide Mortgage
First Christian Church—Florissant
Emerson
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
Epworth
FedEx Kinko's Center
Feed My People
First Baptist St. John's
Forum Studio
Clayco Construction
Gateway Christian Church
GE Volunteers
Glendale Presbyterian Church
Grace Church
Grainger Industrial Supply
HOK
Home Depot
Hughes
IBM Corporation
Infosys Technologies Ltd.
ISC St. Louis
Jim Butler Auto Group
Kaiser Electric
Ladies Night Out
Lutheran Church of Resurrection
Maritz
MasterCard International
McBride & Son Companies
McCarthy Brothers Co.
Meramec Architectural
Mercer Human
Resource Consulting
Mid County Church of Christ
Midwest BankCentre
Monsanto
NARI
Neighbors Assisting Neighbors
Notre Dame Alumni Club
Paric
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People to People
PHS Ladies Lacrosse
Popular Leasing
Rockwood Summit HS
Peer Mentors
Rotary Club – St. Louis
Safeco Insurance
Severn-Trent Laboratories
Sigma Chi Fraternity (Wash U.)
SLCC-OTA Program
St. Gerard Majella Men's Club
St. John's Bank and Trust
St. Joseph's Church Cottleville
St. Louis University Hospital
The Stolar Partnership
Trivers Associates
U.S. Coast Guard ISC St. Louis
Wal-Mart
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Campus Y
Webster Groves High NHS
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Woodlawn Presbyterian
Wright City High NHS
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Zanola Company, LLC

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