

# Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC

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## The “Nuts and Bolts” of What’s Happening at RT of DC

### Winter Project

#### Washington Nationals Dream Foundation

The Washington Nationals Dream Foundation spent two days repairing the Little Lights Urban Ministries non-profit facility. This facility serves over 100 children specifically in SE DC in Ward 6 in the Potomac Gardens Public Housing Complex and surrounding neighborhood where the income of an average family is no more than \$5,000/year.

The first day of repairs were made by the team’s maintenance crew, who: repaired the hot water heater and furnace; weatherized the basement and caulked windows to keep the heat inside and the cold air out; sealed up and drywalled over second story doors that no longer led anywhere; removed a dumpster load of yard debris and clutter from the yard and basement; sealed the foundation of the building so water can’t get into the basement; installed ceiling fixtures; spackled/repaired drywall; planed doors and windows so they can open freely; and much more.

The second day of repairs were made by the foundation’s staff, who focused on cleaning and painting the interior of the facility with soothing pastels and replacing sections of carpet that were torn and coming up from the floor and were a tripping hazard for the staff and children.

We sincerely thank the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation, all of the volunteers that made Little Lights a cleaner, safer place in which to serve children, Marla Lerner Tanenbaum for coming out to thank the volunteers and see their good work, and we look forward to the Nationals’ Caravan at the end of January where some Nationals baseball players will visit the site along with Screech, the Nationals’ mascot.



December 15, 2010



GREATER WASHINGTON

### Our Mission

Since 1983, Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC (formerly Christmas in April) has been working to revitalize low-income homes and communities in our nation’s capital. With the generous support of house sponsors, volunteers, and donors, we make free home repairs for low-income DC homeowners who are elderly, disabled, and/or caring for young children in seriously deteriorating conditions. The repairs enable them to stay in their homes, where they live in warmth and safety with independence and dignity.

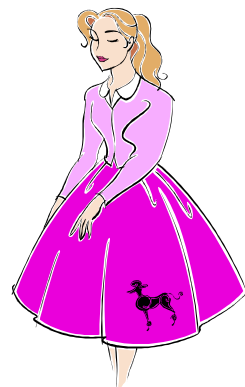


### Save the Date

## Rebuilding Together’s Return To Happy Days

March 5, 2011 Fundraiser

Mark your calendars, grab your poodle skirts and leather jackets, and join us on Saturday, March 5, 2011 for our winter fundraiser. RT’s Return To Happy Days will feature cheeseburgers at Al’s Diner, 50s style boardwalk carnival games, photos on Fonzie’s motorcycle, music and dancing to Pinky and the Pinkettes, shopping at Mama Marion’s jewelry shop and the Cunningham Hardware silent auction, and more. Time and location to be announced in January’s e-newsletter.



Thanks to Clark’s emergency intervention, one family struck with disabling disabilities will have their roof repaired in time for Santa and his reindeer to make a safe landing to make their holiday season happy.

While out previewing, former Board President Greg Gwaltney discovered a family whose roof was leaking so badly that the ceilings were caving in over their beds, and if we couldn’t step in immediately, this family may be forced out of their home... unfortunately, we see this type of situation daily. What we don’t receive daily is the chance to step in immediately. Thanks to Board Member Harry Stevenson and Clark Construction, the roof will be completed by Christmas— a true blessing for this family.

Here is their story: Ms. B, 59, has lived in her Ward 8 home for 15 years. She has seizures and kidney problems and is on dialysis 3 times a week. She needs grab bars, handrails, and other handicap modifications in her home as she is very weak from her dialysis treatments. The roof needs immediate attention—it’s leaking over her bed, her daughter’s bed, in the bathroom and in most upstairs rooms. The next step is to address plumbing issues—the sinks all leak, the toilet does not drain, and low-flow faucets and shower heads need to be installed to help decrease the family’s utility bills.



Clark enabled Santa a safe landing in time for Christmas for a family.

Please, make a donation to Rebuilding Together of DC TODAY to help more families like these before the snow arrives.

## Holiday Families

As the end of the year approaches and everyone is together celebrating the holiday season, remember there is still time to donate to Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC to bring joy to homeowners, such as the following, who were befriended with holiday gifts and/or food stuffs by the generous donors identified on the left. All contributions postmarked by December 31, 2010 are tax deductible for the year 2010. We will promptly send your IRS proof of contribution for your taxes. Remember, you can always go to our website and donate online through Network for Good: [www.rebuildingtogetherdc.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetherdc.org)

Board Member Marilyn Lucas:



Ms. W, 87, has lived in her Ward 5 home for over 30 years. She suffers from dementia, Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s, and incontinence. Her daughter and caretaker, 63, is unemployed and desperately looking for work. She is the grandmother of two boys, 12 and 14, who were abandoned by their parents and left in foster care and have ADHD. Tom Bauder of St. Columba’s Church previewed this home and said about the daughter, “She is trying to take care of all these people in a falling down house.” The second floor gets no heat. There are broken windows and those that are not broken need new ropes and weights. The handrailings they do have are falling off the walls. Several rooms have plaster damage to the point that the walls are almost completely crumbled.

Board President Lisa DuBois:



Ms. F, 72, has lived in her Ward 8 home for 41 years. Her husband passed away just last January, so this time of year is especially hard for the family. She suffers from diabetes and has knee/back problems and cannot get around well. Her daughter and caretaker, 44, also has knee problems and has had two surgeries in the past year but still cannot do much around the house. She has two children ages 10 and 14 who have asthma. Their roof is leaking in all of the bedrooms, even in the girl’s room, so they’re afraid the ceilings will collapse under the weight of the coming snow. The bathtub leaks through to the living room below. The carpet is old, dirty, and worn and needs replacing. Since they cannot get around well, their house is becoming full of clutter and trash and they desperately need help so they may navigate their home safely.

Horning Brothers/Under the Leadership of Board Member Maria Wilsey (this is just 1 of 4 families they ‘adopted’):

Mr. and Mrs. J are 49 and 59 years old and have lived in their Ward 8 home for over 30 years. Mrs. J suffers from cancer, HIV, arthritis, and uses a wheelchair. Mr. J has bad knees and uses a walker to get around. They care for their seven grandchildren, nieces, and nephews, ages 3 days old, 2, 3, 5, 12, 15, and 17. All but two of the kids have learning disabilities, development disabilities, ADHD, dyslexia, or severe attachment issues. The one thing Mrs. J would like more than anything, she said, was to have the bathroom handicap accessible so she can use it. She is trapped on the second floor because she cannot navigate the steps and the only bathroom is upstairs. This is what Mrs. J wrote to us in her application, “I need help because I have cancer and my life is not getting better. I would like to be home, not in a nursing home, so I can still look after all the children. Please help me and my family.”



Ms. C, 46, has lived in her Ward 7 home for 20 years. She is a single mother of three, ages 17, 15, and 12. Her oldest daughter has a 1 year old child which she is also caring for. Her home is in great disrepair. The kitchen faucet leaks constantly, driving up utility costs. The bathtub leaks water, which has caused surrounding walls to collapse. The upstairs carpet is very dirty and soiled. The cabinets in the kitchen are literally falling off the walls. She has no smoke detectors in the home. She needs a new stove and the windows/doors in the home need weatherizing as they are drafty. In her application to us, she said, "I am a single mother. Due to paying bills, I am not able to afford to make necessary repairs for my home. It has been difficult to do anything after I buy food and pay for utilities. I am very ashamed of the condition of my home. Help me, please!"



CHL Interiors/Under the leadership of Karen Terry:

Ms. M, 49, and her sister, 54, have lived in their Ward 7 home for over 21 years. Ms. M has a foot and hand nerve injury and her sister has heart disease, aneurysms, and high blood pressure. They care for their 5 children alone on an annual income of \$8,100. All of the children, ages 3, 6, 7, 14, and 20 have asthma and breathing problems. Their home is infested with cockroaches. They have fallen many times on the broken front steps. The kitchen sink is broken and not able to be used so they have to wash their dishes in buckets. The bathtub upstairs is leaking through to the bedrooms below, causing the ceilings to cave in. The bathroom sink is being held together with duct tape. There are holes in the floor where you can see straight through to the basement. This family needs help immediately.

National Association of Clean Water Agencies/Board member Robin Davis:

Mr. & Mrs. C are 58 and 59 and have lived in their Ward 5 home for over 14 years. They both suffer with diabetes and debilitating arthritis. They have adopted three of their foster children, ages 3, 12, and 13—all with ADHD. The front door is rotting and needs replacing. Kitchen cabinets are falling off the walls. The roof is leaking and ceilings crumbling. The bathroom sink is falling off of the wall and coming up from the floor, damaging tile and leaking all over the floor. The stove is on the verge of breaking and is leaking gas. When we visited, they had nothing but expired food in the cabinets.



Kaiser Family Foundation/Under the Leadership of Board Member Jackie Judd:

Ms. M is 60 and a widow of an Army Veteran. She has lived in her Ward 8 home for over 21 years. She suffers from diabetes, asthma, arthritis, and back/kidney problems. Her four kids, ages 9, 10, 15, and 17, all suffer with asthma. All carpeting in the home needs replacing as it is old, soiled, and torn. The refrigerator is broken. Doors and windows are drafty and need weatherizing. There is a lot of clutter that needs to be removed from the house, the locks on the doors are not secure, and the shower and toilet are broken and leaking.



National Disability Rights Network:

Ms. D, 78, is 78 and has lived in her Ward 5 home for 50 years. She has emphysema and walks with a cane/walker. Her daughter, 42, has cancer and also needs a walker/cane to get around. They care for their grandchildren, ages 20, 18, and 7. The 20 year old has extreme learning disabilities as he is only at the 7th grade level. The 18 year old also has learning disabilities, and the 7 year old has asthma. They desperately need handicap modifications to make their bathrooms and stairs safe to navigate. The stove, oven, and refrigerator are not working. The doors and windows are drafty. They need help with groceries on a regular basis and they have old vehicles and trash in their backyard that needs removing, making the back yard dangerous and an attraction to rats/other vermin.



Featured Homeowner— Awaiting help....

Here's an example of a family awaiting our assistance before the winter progresses:



"I've been in my home for 65 years and I will be here for the rest of my life even if the house is falling down around me because I have no where else to go. I can barely walk and I need surgery, my daughter can't walk well either, she can't walk very far and can't stand for very long. I think the ancient electric system is dangerous especially when lights start smoking. I think the ancient plumbing is dangerous especially when there is water leaking everywhere and rotting out the wood of the house. I think rotting wood of the house is dangerous especially when cabinets are about to fall apart and ceilings fall. I'm worried that the floor may eventually fall from all the water. And I'm worried and afraid that the house may eventually be condemned from all the dangerous situations and then my daughter and I would be homeless. But I cannot afford to make proper repairs to my house and repairing the needed items in the home would help me by improving the quality of life, eliminating any dangerous situations and making me more comfortable with peace of mind in my remaining years."

Is your company, club, place of worship, alumni group, etc looking for another community service project? This family desperately needs a Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC group to make the above repairs so they can live in a safe environment. Please call our office (202) 965-2824 to sign up and help.