

Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC

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

November 6th Project:

Heroes at Home with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

We sincerely thank Board Members Steve Genn, Robin Davis, Fred Wright, and Harry Stevenson AND the team of 25+ volunteers from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for making the November 6th Heroes at Home project a great success for an 84 year old Veteran widow. The Heroes at Home is a program funded by Sears Corporation that is dedicated to improving the lives of the military and their families through extensive home rehabilitations.



Steve (pictured left) House Captained the day's activities and proved his carpentry prowess with his grab bar and handrail installation techniques. Harry got both bathrooms renovated to the tune of comfort height toilets (pictured below) and deglogged plumbing lines and the flooring company to work on the rotted out dining room floor and

kitchen floor. Volunteers from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP removed clutter and filled an entire dumpster, cleaned and painted the interior, weatherized the basement; and more. The homeowner is thrilled. Thank you, everyone, who made this project happen.



November 17, 2010



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.



Alternative Gift Giving

Are you sick of giving gifts that go to waste or aren't appreciated or sit on a dusty shelf for years? For any amount from \$10 to \$5,228 (an entire house sponsorship), we can provide a beautiful holiday card announcing your gift to a Rebuilding Together DC family in honor of anyone on your gift list. We certainly realize that during the holidays families look forward to opening gifts... might we suggest making an alternative gift from Rebuilding Together DC an additional gift in cases where the recipient wants the joy of opening a box? Just email or call us to make arrangements.

Yard Sale Series: Second Sale on Friday, December 3 & Saturday, December 4



Our second yard sale will take place on Friday, December 3 from 10am to 2pm and Saturday, December 4 from 8am to 2pm at the business of Board Member Doris Collins at Snap Fitness, Waldorf: 173 St. Patrick's Drive, Suite 104, Waldorf, MD 20603. All proceeds to benefit our free home repair programs. Please spread the word to your friends, family, colleagues, and anyone you know who may be interested. Come on out and shop, shop, shop!

Adopt a Rebuilding Family for the Holidays

The holidays are fast approaching and many individuals, offices, places of worship, and civic groups like to provide holiday presents of gifts and foodstuffs to families. Our files bulge with tragic stories of families who need help for food and gifts without your help. Adopt a family for you to share the joy of



that have applied for our services. Our files will not have any funds available. Just call us and we can give you the name of a family for you to share the joy of giving with this holiday season.

Featured Homeowner— Awaiting help....

Here's an example of a family awaiting our assistance and one that your group can 'adopt' this holiday season:

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. This family's income is only \$14,000/year. 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.**"



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 Mr. and Mrs. J.

Year End Solicitation

This is the time of year when we seek donations from individuals to help our cause. If you are receiving this E-newsletter, you surely know the difficulty of the work performed by Rebuilding Together DC each year. Our files bulge with applications, especially in these hard economic times.

Did you know that Washington, DC is the second poorest city in the US? Did you know that DC has the largest percentage of elderly who are poor of any city in the US? Did you know that every census tract in the metropolitan area that is defined as impoverished is in DC? Did you know that unemployment rates exceed 28% in Ward 8, which includes Historic Anacostia, a neighborhood on which we concentrate? Did you know that the average income of families we serve is \$12,000/year? Did you know that we give preference to the families of Veterans in thanks for their service to our country? Did you know that mold remediation and other repairs made by Rebuilding Together DC alleviates asthma and breathing disorders for hundreds of children and disabled elderly each year, so we can be considered a health program in addition to a low-income housing program?

While any amount that is comfortable for you to donate would be greatly appreciated, here are some suggested giving levels:

\$50— installs grab bars that prevent falls and broken hips for elderly, disabled homeowners

\$100— plugs holes in houses to stop rats from entering, causing a myriad of health issues

\$250— caulks/weatherizes drafty doors and windows to reduce utility bills

\$500— replaces and installs a new, energy efficient refrigerator and energy efficient light bulbs throughout the home

\$1,000— buys wood to build a wheelchair ramp that allows Veteran amputees to get out of their homes

\$3,000— repairs a leaky roof which is compromising the integrity of the entire home, perhaps leading to homelessness since the house is in risk of being declared uninhabitable

\$4,000— rebuilds a broken porch that is falling off the house, endangering the residents of falling through as they enter

\$5,200— sponsors repairs on an entire home so that its residents may age in place safely and independently

\$6,000— installs energy efficient furnace in a home where there is no heat

Questions or Comments? Email us at rtdc@rebuildingtogetherdc.org or call (202) 965-2824