

Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC

P.O. Box 40026 • Washington, DC 20016-0026 • Ph (202) 965-2824 • F (202) 965-2827 • <http://www.rebuildingtogetherdc.org>

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

Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden

Visit RTDC’s Veteran Project

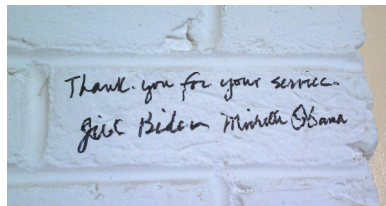
On Monday, October 17, 2011, First Lady Michelle Obama and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden, as a part of their Joining Forces initiative, joined Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC volunteers and Board Members to honor Sgt. Johnny Agbi, a well deserving purple heart recipient who was injured in Afghanistan. Our project, sponsored by Sears: Heroes at Home, marked the 1,000th Heroes at Home Project completed since the program began.



Johnny, 32, lives in Ward 5. He served in Iraq and then Afghanistan, where his helicopter transport was shot down. He suffered a traumatic brain injury, shattered his back, has shrapnel in his back and head, has several gun shot wounds, narcolepsy, hyperthyroidism, asthma, and PTSD. Johnny is mostly wheelchair bound, but he can take a few steps with the aid of a cane.

Thanks to the skilled craftsmanship of our longtime supporters at Clark Construction, the following work was completed:

- Replaced leaking roof;
- Repaired leaking gutters;
- Rebuilt interior steps, making them wider so they are more navigable to accommodate Johnny’s lack of mobility;
- Installed entirely new handicap accessible second floor bathroom, including a walk in shower, comfort height toilet, grab bars to prevent falls, new accessible height vanity, handheld shower, and new tile throughout;
- Replaced rotted out flooring in bathroom;
- Installed new central air conditioning system;
- Repaired dangerous, nonworking/burned out electrical systems throughout the home;
- Installed new duct work for heating and air conditioning systems;
- Installed brand new, solid wood kitchen cabinets;
- Installed brand new, front loading, energy efficient washer and dryer and relocated these to a newly constructed laundry area;
- Installed new stone countertops, designed specifically to accommodate the height of his wheelchair;
- Installed new sink in the kitchen at accessible height;
- Installed new side by side, energy efficient refrigerator with accessible, in the door, water and ice, making it easy for Johnny to access water;
- Installed energy efficient dishwasher;
- Installed new energy efficient stove;
- Built out entire back of house as an accessible bath area with widened doorways for easy ingress and egress;
- Installed Jacuzzi, accessible walk-in tub, which will provide therapeutic massages;
- Installed comfort height toilet and grab bars to prevent falls and make easy use of the bathroom;
- Installed new tile flooring throughout addition and removed all steps for easy access;
- Re-sodded and landscaped the back yard, providing a safe, level outdoor living area;
- Repainted entire home with low-VOC, non-toxic paint; and
- Many more handicap accessible features throughout home.



Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden autographed the fire place after painting the living room at Johnny’s



October 20, 2011

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Our Mission

Since 1983, Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC has been working to preserve and revitalize low-income homes and community facilities in our Nation’s Capital. With the generous support of sponsors, volunteers and donors, we make free home repairs for low-income DC homeowners who are Veterans, elderly, disabled or caring for young children in seriously deteriorating conditions and for nonprofit community centers that serve DC’s most vulnerable citizens of all ages. Our home repairs enable low-income elderly and disabled homeowners to stay in their homes, where they can live in warmth and safety with independence and dignity and young children to be raised in a safe home environment.



Homeowner Johnny, center, with Dr. Biden, Mrs. Obama, and friend.

We especially thank Board Member Harry Stevenson and all at Clark Construction. All pictures and media coverage will be uploaded to our website soon, so go to www.rebuildingtogetherdc.org for more information about this wonderful event.

October Projects: Cricket Communications and Honeywell Hometown Solutions

Cricket Communications:

On Saturday, October 15, 2011, a group of 40 volunteers, sponsored by Cricket Communications, worked to complete a rebuild project at the Riverside Center and Marvin Gaye Park. The Riverside Center, run by Washington Parks and People, is a community living room for Ward 7 charities and has a kitchen where they serve organic produce to DC's homeless and hungry population. Board Members Fred Wright and Vicki McGill and former Board Member Tom Bauder led the group. Work included:

- Repairing plaster on ceilings where the roof was leaking;
- Painting the interior and exterior of the Riverside Center;
- Caulking and preserving wood columns in the park;
- Cleaning up trash in the park; and
- Much, much more.

Honeywell Hometown Solutions:

Thanks to a grant from Honeywell, on Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 25 volunteers worked to complete repairs at the New Generations by Women Center in Southeast DC. The community center sits below their transitional shelter that houses 15 single females and their children. Board Member Ed Murphy led the group to make the following repairs:

- Repairing plaster on walls below windows that leaked water;
- Painting the entire interior of the center and the exterior doors and awning;
- Constructing and installing shelving for a literacy corner and clothing donation area for women to find business attire to interview for jobs; and
- So much more.

Thank You for Voting on Facebook: \$10,000 Grant from Sears for Female Vet Project



Your votes helped us to win a \$10,000 grant from Sears: Operation Rebuild. This grant will benefit Ms. D, 60, an Operation Desert Storm Veteran who received her RN degree during her service and worked at Walter Reed, and has lived in her home since birth over 60 years ago.

The home is literally falling apart. She has ONE electrical outlet that works, and uses extension cords throughout the home to run the fridge and lamp (which she takes with her to the bathroom, to her bedroom, or anywhere she wants to be able to

see). Her roof is leaking. Ceilings are collapsing. The front porch is falling apart. Her home is unsafe and a fire hazard; thanks to your support, we will be able to help her with many of the repairs she so desperately needs.



Holiday Season Food and Gift Giving: Sign Up To Provide for a RTDC Family

The holidays are fast approaching and many individuals, offices, places of worship, and civic groups like to provide gifts and foodstuffs to families that have applied for our services. Our files bulge with tragic stories of families who will not have any funds available for food or gifts without your help. 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.

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