

# Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC

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

**Michelle Obama to Visit Veteran Project  
on October 17, 2011**

Join us to help reward a well deserving purple heart recipient who was injured while serving our country in Afghanistan. On Monday, October 17, First Lady Michelle Obama will be in attendance for the reveal day of the 1,000th Sears Heroes at Home Rebuild Project at the home of Sergeant Johnny Agbi.

**Who:** Michelle Obama/Sergeant Johnny Agbi

**What:** Reveal day of the 1,000th Sears Heroes at Home/Clark Construction Rebuild Project

**When:** Monday, October 17, 2011 from 11am to 3pm

**Where:** 119 New York Avenue, NW DC 20001

We hope that you can clear your calendars and be there... we need a crowd. Bring your kids. Bring your relatives. Bring your colleagues. For security clearance requirements we will need name, social security number and e-mail addresses of all attendees. Send your info to [rtdc@rebuildingtogetherdc.org](mailto:rtdc@rebuildingtogetherdc.org) if you can attend.

By the way all the work will be done and revealed on October 17th. So we are not asking you to work, just asking you to be a part of this incredibly worthy event. Lunch will be served.

### Johnny's story:

Johnny, 32 years old, has lived in his Ward 5 home for over 5 years now. He served in the Army with the 10th Mountain Division from 1997 to 2009. He was the lead medical officer, but also served as translator and helped with analysis of information. From 2002-2004 he served overseas several places, mainly Iraq and Afghanistan. It is in Afghanistan where he received most of his injuries, and was eventually medically discharged, even though he so desperately wanted to remain in the Army and serve his country.

Johnny is mostly wheelchair bound. He can take a few steps with a cane, but it is very difficult for him to do so. He suffered a traumatic brain injury, shattered his back, still has shrapnel in his back and head, has several gun shot wounds, narcolepsy, hyperthyroidism, asthma, and PTSD. His mother comes from Texas to visit him frequently, but he lives alone in his DC row house.



**September 16, 2011**

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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.



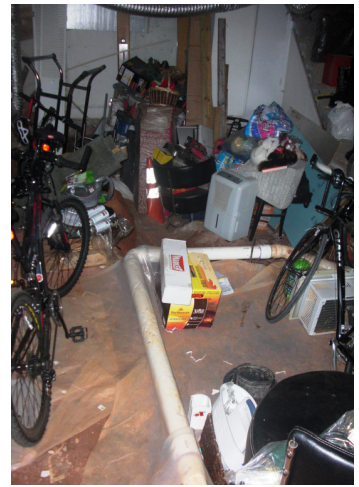
Johnny desperately needed wheelchair access into home, doorways widened, and additional handicap modifications now that he is unable to navigate his home without a wheelchair. His roof had leaked, causing ceilings to become damaged and mold to grow, only worsening his asthma. The 3rd floor bath leaked through to the rooms below, several outlets and light fixtures were not working, and the panel itself needed upgrading. Most rooms needed painting, the furnace and water heater worked sporadically, all doors were drafty, some clutter needed to be removed, and the basement was left unfinished by contractors-- they had been removing mold damage and left the ground exposed (a dirt basement), not habitable whatsoever.

These are just some of the things Johnny needed, more was continually uncovered more with each visit. Thanks to our great friends at Clark Construction, work has been continuing and will be ready to unveil on October 17th.

The following is a letter we received from Johnny:

*"I am having a very difficult time accepting that this amazing thing is happening to me of all people. I feel undeserving. I was always taught it is more important to give than to receive; which is why when the group first came to my home I kept telling them not to do so much. They probably thought I was being ungrateful when really I just was not prepared to accept such generosity. I was not used to it. The commitment we made to our country, that for some of us cost a life, was a matter of choice knowing we would get nothing back but freedom which is better than great. We chose to uphold & defend our good country just because it was right. We never expected for our country to give back even a fraction of what we lost in the war. I wish I knew a better way to say thanks. Thank you on behalf of my family, my fellow men & women who weren't fortunate enough to make it, & for every person out there that serves."*

We look forward to seeing you on October 17th.



Johnny's cluttered, dirt floor basement prior to Clark Construction's repairs



## **Wanted: Jewelry for upcoming fundraisers**

Are you wondering what to do with the jewelry you've outgrown or haven't worn in ages, but is in good condition? Donate them to RTDC.

We are seeking donations of jewelry and unwanted gold (surely you have missing earrings, broken bracelets, unwanted charm bracelets) for our upcoming fundraising events.



Please drop donated items on the front porch at 4921 Sherier Place, NW, Washington, DC 20016. Please do not leave them in the driveway. Make sure they are on the covered porch. There is a marked container for your drop. Please be sure to include your name, address, email, and the estimated value of your contribution and we will email you a tax-deductible receipt.