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REBUILDING TOGETEHR TULSA (RTT) PLACES 5TH IN A SEARS FACEBOOK CONTEST AND IS AWARDED \$15,000 TO PROVIDE DESERVING TULSA VETERANS HOME REPAIRS

In its latest initiative to support America's military members, Sears teamed with Rebuilding Together to conduct "Operation Rebuild for Heroes at Home," a social media contest that gave communities across the U.S. the opportunity to help servicemen and women in need. Based on the results of Facebook fan voting, Sears and Rebuilding Together, the nation's leading nonprofit that works to preserve affordable homeownership, awarded \$250,000 in grants to Rebuilding Together affiliates to help military families who are facing hardships renovate their homes.

Operation Rebuild for Heroes at Home called on Americans to vote for the Rebuilding Together affiliate program that they believed was the most deserving. Visitors to the [Sears Facebook page](#) were able to read the stories behind each grant application and then vote for their favorite. Based on total vote tallies, Sears and Rebuilding Together awarded 25 overall grants totaling \$250,000 to Rebuilding Together affiliates at Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze levels.

Rebuilding Together Tulsa placed 5th in the voting and received \$15,000 to help deserving veterans in the Tulsa community.

Mr. Tottress, a Tulsa veteran, was featured in the contest and will be one Tulsa veteran to receive free home repairs from the money awarded. Repairs will be made on Mr. Tottress's home on Tuesday, October 11, 2011.

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Mr. Tottress retired from the Army after 22 years as a sergeant in special operations, airborne, with a number of injuries including degenerated disks in his neck and back and carpal tunnel syndrome in both wrists. He also suffered from heat stroke while in the military.

Many of his injuries have kept him from completing the repairs needed around his home. He has purchased paint and a door, but is unable to complete the painting or hang the door due to his

physical limitations. He is also in need of a new roof and energy efficiency repairs that will make his home dry, cooler in these 110 degree temperatures, warmer when the Oklahoma winter turns to temperatures in the teens and save him money on his energy bills.

Mr. Tottress is very involved in giving back to his community. He volunteers at the Chamberlain Park and Community Center giving free haircuts to kids.

"The kids and parents have to buy uniforms for school. If I can cut their hair and help them build confidence and self-esteem and save them some money, I'll do that," he said. "When you give your blessings, you'll see blessings in return."

He also volunteers fixing kids bikes, works with the Boy Scouts and gives vegetables to his neighbors from his garden he lovingly tends to. He takes pride in his neighborhood where he is a member of the neighborhood association and mows vacant lots to improve the look of the neighborhood. He wants to make a difference for kids in his community and help them get to college. He instills in them that "I can't" should not be in their vocabulary. Mr. Tottress is a positive role model for his community, neighborhood and Tulsa!

Jennifer Barcus-Schafer, RTT CEO, said his work with neighborhood kids and the community center make Tottress the "epitome" of what the organization is about.

"It's kind of like the perfect puzzle pieces fitting together. He's in need but providing so much himself. He's so deserving of this," she said. "Not only are we grateful for his service to the country, but the service he provides to his community is beyond amazing."

"I never thought that would happen," he said. "I can't afford it. A new roof and siding on my house – that would be a blessing," said Tottress.

For more information or locations for photographs or interviews, please contact Jennifer Barcus-Schafer 918-344-2116.

About Rebuilding Together Tulsa

Rebuilding Together Tulsa is a local non-profit organization that makes repair to homes for homeowners living on limited incomes. Rebuilding Together Tulsa has been repairing homes for low-income seniors and people living with disabilities in Tulsa for the last fourteen years. Repairs focus on safety, security, and weatherproofing and are done at no cost to the homeowner. In 2011, Rebuilding Together Tulsa received the Oklahoma Nonprofit Excellence (ONE) Award in the community category. It is projected that 200 Tulsans will receive home repairs from Rebuilding Together Tulsa this year.

About Sears Holdings Corporation

Sears Holdings Corporation is the nation's fourth largest broadline retailer with over 4,000 full-line and specialty retail stores in the United States and Canada. Sears Holdings is the leading home appliance retailer as well as a leader in tools, lawn and garden, consumer electronics and automotive repair and maintenance. Sears Holdings is the 2011 ENERGY STAR® Retail Partner of the Year. Key proprietary brands include Kenmore, Craftsman and DieHard, and a broad apparel offering, including such well-known labels as Lands' End, Jaclyn Smith and Joe Boxer, as well as the Apostrophe and Covington brands. It also has the Country Living collection, which is offered by Sears and Kmart. We are the nation's largest provider of home services, with more than 11 million service calls made annually. Sears Holdings Corporation operates through its subsidiaries, including Sears, Roebuck and Co. and Kmart Corporation. For more information, visit Sears Holdings' website at www.searsholdings.com.

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