



The Rebuilder

Newsletter

Rebuilding Together Tulsa Completes 7th Annual Work Day!

491 volunteers repaired 20 homes this past April helping Rebuilding Together Tulsa achieve its seventh annual work-day! Many of these Tulsa neighbors have worked hard all of their lives and have been physically and financially able to repair their own homes. Now, as they have aged, become disabled, or lost a spouse, they are unable to do the maintenance themselves and their homes have become unsafe or unlivable.

The mission of Rebuilding Together Tulsa is to improve the living conditions of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and people living with disabilities, in Tulsa by making repairs and improvements to homes, at no cost to the homeowner. Funding comes from local corporations, foundations, service organizations, clubs, churches and synagogues, associations, and individuals from neighborhoods who care.

There were numerous repairs taking place this past work-day. Volunteers...replaced 7 roofs, built 7 ramps, replaced 67 windows, installed 14 grab bars, widened 4 doorways, replaced 5 faucets, installed 1 shower seat, replaced flooring in 8 homes, replaced 16 doors, painted 13 homes, provided 4 air units, replaced 15 lights, installed 5 deadbolts, replaced 1 bathtub, replaced gutters on 5 homes, repaired steps at 5 homes, installed 1 sink, tore down and replaced 2 garages, installed 5 handrails, installed 32 smoke detectors, hauled 12 dumpsters of debris, and MUCH MORE!

Volunteers focus on keeping homeowners safe, secure, weather proof and helping them age in place. Homeowners who could use the assistance of their neighbor is rapidly increasing. The aging population is growing at a steady rate and will double from 34 million to 70 million by 2025 and 92% of the retired population prefers to age in their own home.

In this issue, you will read personal homeowner stories and messages from them about this past workday. Pictures of homeowners, volunteers and the work that was completed will warm your heart. You will find information about how to apply for our services or how you can help. Please take a few moments to read this newsletter and learn more about Rebuilding Together Tulsa. We are working to assist more homeowners on our 8th annual workday, April 24th, 2004.

On April 26, 2003, 20 lives were changed for the better. Thank you volunteers and sponsors!



Bank One team repairs Ms. Johnson's home

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*Rebuilding lives and
 neighborhoods...
 making homes safe,
 secure and weatherproof*

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Deanna Boston,
Executive Director

A Note from our Board President

I'm still in awe of the amount of work a dedicated group of 491 volunteers was able to accomplish in a single day on April 26, 2003. During our annual workday, they were able to touch the lives of 20 low-income homeowners, making their living conditions more safe, secure and weatherproof.

Now, we're ready to raise the bar again as we begin planning for our next workday on April 24.

I'm honored to serve in the position of president of the board, not only because of the important cause, but also because of the high caliber of people I'll be working with to continue to extend the reach of our nonprofit organization.

The challenge ahead of us is great. As we work toward our mission of improving the quality of life and living conditions of low-income homeowners who are living with a disability and/or age 60 or older, we are faced with the reality of an economic downturn. During these times, the needs for Rebuilding Together Tulsa's services are even greater.

As a board, we are diligently looking for ways to diversify and increase our funding sources. We believe our success of putting \$4 back in the community for every \$1 spent tells a compelling story of our ability to help those who are less for-



unate. An even greater testament is the heart-warming smiles of the homeowners and the before-and-after pictures of their homes. If you haven't been a part of a workday to experience this satisfaction firsthand, I encourage you to volunteer. It's a rewarding experience.

We also invite you to share your ideas and suggestions for helping us continue to improve our services. You can contact me, our executive director Deanna Boston or any board member. We'd like to hear from you.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead and thank those of you who have helped us make a positive difference in our community. - **Susie Hereden, Board President**

Committee Members Needed

We are growing and need your help! There are several active committees where you could make a difference. Committees are listed below and a brief description of some of the activities on that committee:

- ⇒ **Public Relations** - find in-kind media opportunities, speak with groups about Rebuilding Together Tulsa, work a shift at the Home & Garden Show
- ⇒ **Fundraising** - assist with workday sponsorships, annual campaign, rebuild-a-thon and other fundraising opportunities
- ⇒ **Technical** - provide or assist in recruiting in-kind skilled labor (carpentry, roofing, plumbing, electrical, etc.)
- ⇒ **Home Selection** - help preview homes and create story boards for selected homes. We need skilled trades people

- ⇒ to assist with previews and act as Area Directors on workday
- ⇒ **Logistics** - assist with getting donated supplies (cleaning, painting, etc.), assist with shopping day, help coordinate dumpsters
- ⇒ **Youth Involvement & Volunteers** - help recruit youth volunteers and coordinate additional volunteers. This is a great committee for highschool students!
- ⇒ **Home Depot** - hand out information at Home Depot on workday
- ⇒ **Workday Food & Appreciation Dinner** - assist with obtaining and delivering workday food. Help organize appreciation dinner for volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer on a committee please call 742-6241 and we will provide your information to the committee chairs.

Leadership Donors 2002—2003

City Builder

A-Best Roofing

Bama Foods Limited Partnership

Bank One

Bank of America

Home Depot

Ralph & Francis McGill Foundation

Sherwin Williams

Whirlpool

Winbury Group/UBuildIt

Community Builder

All Souls Unitarian Church

Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation

City of Tulsa

Countrywide

EDS

Hillcrest

Home Builders Association of Greater
Tulsa

Junior League of Tulsa

Mervin Bovaird Foundation

Restoration Hardware

Samson Companies

State Farm

Subway

Tulsa County Bar Association

Unity Church of Christianty

Wal-Mart

Williams

Neighborhood Builder

ARC

Bank of Oklahoma

Brad & Beth Colvard

Charles W. and Pauline Flint

Foundation

Lohrey & Associates

Lyle M. Gelvin Foundation

For every \$1 gifted to Rebuilding Together Tulsa, \$4 goes back into the Tulsa community.

People aging over 60 or living with a disability turn to us for home renovations. With your donated dollars, we are able to:

- Bring decency to homes and neighborhoods and dignity to homeowners
- Squeeze \$4 of value from every donated dollar using volunteer labor and donated material
- Help Tulsa citizens age in place by incorporating home modifications
- Prevent injuries saving society millions of dollars in hospitalizations

Your gift is critical to the work that Rebuilding Together Tulsa accomplishes to help low-income homeowners live in warmth, safety and independence. There are many ways you can help. Here are just a few:

- **Bequests:** Leaving a lasting legacy through a bequest in your will enhances the lives of others for years to come
- **Cash:** Gifts of cash are always the right size and color
- **Matching Gift:** Does your company match charitable contributions? It's a simple way to make your contribution make the twice the impact
- **Materials & Supplies:** There are numerous supplies and materials needed. Call the office for more information.
- **Skilled Labor:** We are always in need of volunteer skilled plumbers, roofers, carpenters, electricians, etc.

House Builder

Hollan Excavating

Hollinger & Associates

University Village Hilcrest Helthcare

In Honor" of Jill Zink Tarbell



Subway employees prepare lunch for 450 hungry volunteers



Steve Hallum and Steve Zinn at Sherwin Williams providing paint for 20 homes



Charles Brown, A-Best Roofing and Craig VanDoorne, Home Depot



Volunteers from Bama Foods and Clear Creek Properties

Homeowner Profiles

Anner Bowen

Ms. Bowen had a new wheelchair to assist her with her mobility. She was now going to be able to wander through her home without assistance, except, she was unable to fit through doors leading to her bathroom. With funds from Bama Companies and volunteers from Clear Creek Properties, that was all about to change.

Volunteers widened two doorways and also made her bathroom safer with grab bars, a handheld shower and a bathtub seat. In a note Ms. Bowen wrote to the volunteers upon completion of the repairs, she said, "It has made a world of difference in my life. Thanks for all the time and efforts you put forth to help."

Other repairs accomplished at her home included: weather-stripping, new outlets, new toilet, new tile, repairs to her washer, kitchen faucet and yard work.

Marlyss Murray

Ms. Murray had always relied on her two sons to help with small repairs around the house. Her youngest son was still living with her when both sons were deployed for *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. There was a remarkable team effort that came about to help Ms. Murray.

The Mervin Bovaird Foundation and Home Depot provided funds, A-Best roofing, State Farm, Wilco Guttering and ARC Roofing Supply provided materials and skilled labor, and Metro Housing CD and the Junior League of Tulsa provided volunteers. Ms. Murray's home was re-roofed and painted. Volunteers also installed new doors, fascia and soffit.

Ms. Murray was so grateful. She told the RTT office, "I know all of you had other things to do with your own families, and you still took time to help mine. Thank you."



Ms. Bowen using her new widened doorway



Ms. Doyle makes cookies for the volunteers

Homeowner Survey Results

Treated by respect by volunteers/staff **100%**

Volunteer/Staff appointments always kept **92%**

Repairs will improve my life **100%**

A Few Homeowner Quotes...

How will repairs made to your home improve your life?

Savings on utilities

I can get outside much easier with the ramp

I can get out of my home without help

Gain greater accessibility to rooms and outside

Improvement of quality of day-to-day activities

I am able to get up and down my front steps

I can get in shower with grab bars

I no longer have to put buckets under leaks

I can stay living in my home

I can be proud of how my house looks now

The repairs have greatly reduces my stress

I can now open and close my doors from my wheelchair

Is there anything you would like to tell the volunteers and sponsors?

You are a wonderful bunch of people

Thank you very much and may God bless you all

You made a positive difference in a human life.

Thanks to each one, which seems so inadequate in comparison to the benefits I received.

Great illustration of togetherness in action.

You are wonderful people who gave up the free time you have to give to those who are in need.

You are truly good people!

They are good workers and kind people

They are God sent and an answer to my prayers

Oh yes! I thank God for each and every one of them. I shall never forget their generosity.

All of them were so kind and courteous in all ways and I appreciate all of the little extra things they did

This was an answer to my prayers

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to all of you

Thank you to all of the volunteers and companies that made it possible

Thank you to the news media for taking the time to publicize the efforts. I know it helps in reaching others that want to help as well as those that need it.

I appreciate how everything was handled very professionally and no one ever made us feel bad about our situation. Everyone was courteous and we never felt like our privacy was invaded.

I hope some day I will be able to return the same generosity given to us



Ms. Johnson talks to KRMG radio on workday



Ms. Murray is thankful for the courteous approach

Brushing Up on Safety

Primary sources: Zee Services, The National Safety Council, American Optometric Association

Every year thousands of Americans injure themselves while making home repairs. The following suggestions can help you prevent accidents and stay safe:

Use Caution

- ⇒ Whenever you use any power tool—saw, drill, grinder, power screwdriver, nail gun—be sure you focus on the task 100%
- ⇒ Remember to use safety goggles, face shield, earplugs and/or respirator when appropriate.
- ⇒ Remove rings, other jewelry, loose-fitting clothing and anything else that could get caught in a tool. Tie back long hair.
- ⇒ Never use a power tool unless you have proper training.
- ⇒ Always read the owner's manual.

Prepare With Care

To set up a safe work setting:

- ⇒ Install adequate lighting
- ⇒ Inspect your tools, cords and outlets before each use. Tighten screws, nuts, bolts, and other parts, as needed.

- ⇒ Make sure extension cords are long enough for the job.
- ⇒ Minimize the risk of electrical shock by using double-insulated tools and three-wired cords with ground wire connected and ground fault circuit interrupter.
- ⇒ Keep the floor and work areas clear of debris, objects and furniture.
- ⇒ Properly secure machines; use vises and clamps to hold small objects

Use Tools Properly

- ⇒ Use a tool only for its intended purpose.
- ⇒ Avoid operating electrical tools in a damp or wet areas. If you must do so, wear gloves and footwear designed for use when working with electricity.
- ⇒ If using a ladder or scaffolding, secure power tools in a bin attached to the ladder or rest them on a flat surface.
- ⇒ Make sure the power switch is turned to "off" before you plug in or unplug a tool. Always unplug the tool when it's not in use.
- ⇒ Do not yank cords out of their sockets, and never carry tools by their cords.

Needs List

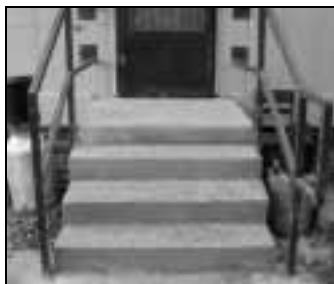
- ◆ 8 1/2 x 11 printer paper
- ◆ In-kind Printing Services for Newsletter/Team Captain Books
- ◆ 25 Disposable Cameras
- ◆ Gift Certificates for Film Developing
- ◆ 100 New Paint Roller Covers
- ◆ 100 New Disposable Paint Drop Cloths
- ◆ 50 Disposable Paint Pans
- ◆ 50 packages Disposable Latex Gloves
- ◆ 18" Stainless Steel Grab Bars
- ◆ 22" Stainless Steel Grab Bars
- ◆ 25 Display Boards (3-Fold 36" x 48")
- ◆ Color and B&W Ink Cartridges for Hewlett-Packard Office Jet G85
- ◆ 25 new Carbon Monoxide/Smoke Detector combos



Before



Before



After



After

Now Accepting Applications for April 2004 Workday!

Most homeowners find out about Rebuilding Together Tulsa's services through partnerships with other social service agencies such as; Life Senior Services, Habitat for Humanity, and the Tulsa Area Agency on Aging. Others discover our services through the various media outlets, homeowner's associations, or volunteers who have helped a Tulsa homeowner during our past workdays.

For the 2003 workday, we received more than fifty applications from low-income homeowners who are elderly or living with a disability. Statistics show that there are more than 58,000 homeowners in Tulsa who are over sixty-two. There are almost 74,000 people living with a disability and 34% of the Tulsa population are moderate to low income households. The 2000 Census for Tulsa City Limits shows of homeowners 65 years and over, 3,393 live below poverty level (approximately \$9,000 or less).

We realize there are more Tulsans who are in need of our services. If you or someone you know needs home repairs and meet the homeowner criteria listed, please consider applying to Rebuilding Together Tulsa. Upon receiving your application and required paperwork, we will set up a time to assess your repair needs. All qualified applicants are considered. The home selection committee then must prioritize applicants according to need and resources available.

Applications will be accepted now until **November 15, 2003** and repairs will be made to selected homes **April 24, 2004**. To receive an application, please contact the Rebuilding Together Tulsa office at 742-6241 or download it from our website at www.tulsa.rebuildingtogether.org.

Homeowner Criteria

age: household head is 60 years of age or older

or

living with a disability: households of any age are considered

and

income: low/moderate (meet federal income limits defining low/moderate income - 80% or less of Tulsa median family income - based on the number of people living in the house; adjusted annually). For the April 24, 2004 workday, the following income limits apply:

1 person household: \$29,250

2 person household: \$33,400

3 person household: \$37,600

4 person household: \$41,750

5 person household: \$45,100

6 person household: \$48,450

ownership: house must be in applicants name

(we do not assist rental units)

location: Tulsa City Limits



"I can get out of my home without help. Thank you very much and may God bless you all"

- Frankie Asbury



"I applaud your deep sense of community and professionalism in your efforts to help the senior Tulsans and less fortunate."

- Anthony Gully, son of program recipient



"I am now happy with the looks of my house—inside and out."

- John Zongker

One Man's Volunteer Experience — Tale of the Philosophical Farmer

By John Fisher, *Rebuilding Together Tulsa* Guest Editorial for Aug 2003

I think there are two driving forces that keep me involved with volunteer efforts. One is emotional in nature the other is philosophical. Emotionally it is a desire for a sense of connection, of wanting to feel a part of rather than separate from my world. Philosophically it is about trying to do the right thing by my world.

Several years ago I was on the road with a construction company for about two years. Though I maintained a residence in Tulsa during this journey, I began to doubt that I would ever find a place I could call home. I did make friends and participate wherever I was and there was a sense of temporary community, but I always felt I was just passing through. I realized that what kept me from real intimacy with my surroundings was that I was not going to be there for any length of time. I could not make any long-term commitments. I realized that what separated me from my community and my sense of belonging was my inability to be involved for any length of time. Upon my return to Tulsa I made a decision to get involved in my community. I looked at several churches and settled on one that I am still involved with. I am currently the volunteer in the bookstore at this church. I got involved in my professional community and currently serve on its board of directors. I have many communities to participate in professional, civic, spiritual, athletic, etc. Through all this I have come to realize the home I was looking for is in my own heart. My heart resides in Tulsa and it feels like home.

A responsible farmer realizes that in

Thanks Team Captains!

It takes the dedication of MANY to lead the success of workday and there is one group who really shines! We want to send a special thanks to each of the team captains who volunteer their time to plan, organize and manage the 20 homes this past year. Without them, homeowners in need would not receive the necessary repairs.

A BIG THANK YOU to...Roger Ames, Richard Apker, Wayne Bagby,

order to continue reaping a harvest from his fields, he needs to give back to the soil that has been supporting his crops. I spent much of my early years taking from my world. It is a fairly natural order of things, young of every species need nurturing and it is all about them in there formative years. I began to realize that my own living sprang from my community and that if I were to be a responsible member of my community I needed to give back to that community. How better to do that than to volunteer.

A few years ago, through my profession I became involved with Rebuilding Together Tulsa. I recruited some much-needed help from the company I was associated with to do some repair work on an elderly couples home. I have been involved ever since. For me it has been a two-fold experience. The obvious is improving the lives of those in need. Perhaps even greater is seeing how much and how willing people are to give there time energy and money to help there fellows. It warms my heart.

John Fisher, a 30-year veteran of the construction business, is a consultant with UBuildIt, a professional construction-consulting business. John is an avid runner and cyclist. In addition to being Past President of Rebuilding Together Tulsa, he is also a board member of the Home Builders Assoc. of Tulsa. John is also an ambassador for Philbrook Museum and is a very active volunteer in the Tulsa arts community. He can be reached at 918.299-5570. The UBuildIt website is www.ubuildit.com.

Kent Basnett, Leslie Bohanan, Steve Brady, Peter Brolick, Brad Burkhalter, Hugh Burleigh, Mitch Clinton, Brad Colvard, Trina Durdin, Bob Farris, John Fisher, Melissa Goodfox, Jennifer Hill, Julius Leach, Mark McGee, Paul Mikes, Jon Murphy, Madeline Parish, Linda Parish, Phil Parish, Ross Phippen, Tony Rainwater, Royce Reed, Jodie Rogers, Nikki Rusch, Jon Seekins, Shea Smith, Marlena Turley, Jim Watkinson, Aaron Webster



Scott Hazelwood with Samson Companies



Tom Mericle with Countrywide



Williams Companies Team



Cascia Hall Students



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Find out how to make a donation at www.tulsa.rebuildingtogether.org

Celebrating 100 Years! - 100 year old Tulsan Receives Home Repairs!



Tulsa Homeowner, Otis Clark

Otis Clark celebrated his 100th birthday this year. After growing up in Tulsa, he packed up and moved to California as a young man. In California he worked in the entertainment business where he met Charlie Chaplin, Clark Gable, Joan Crawford and many others. He moved back to Tulsa to be with his sister and mother, both of which he has survived.

Rebuilding Together Tulsa recently found out about Mr. Clark and his story and wanted to help. He lives in a home in need of much repair and on August 23rd, his home will receive those repairs! Some of the work will include:

- A new heating and cooling source
- New paint
- Removal of smoke odor
- New doors
- Roof repair

- Bathroom Repair
- New lighting fixtures
- Smoke detectors

When told Rebuilding Together Tulsa would make the repairs, Mr. Clark said, "I am so thankful for anything you can do."

Rebuilding Together Tulsa primarily repairs homes the last Saturday in April. Since Mr. Clark needed heat before the upcoming winter months, the Rebuilding Together Tulsa board of directors chose to have a special workday. Anyone who might be interested in sponsoring a house or a position on the board of directors is invited to participate in the August 23rd workday. For more information, please contact the Rebuilding Together Tulsa office at 742-6241 or rebuildingtogethertulsa@cox.net.