

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014 PROJECTS

"They did a great job-unbelievable...They were so good-so friendly. Every single one of them. Sometimes you don't see any more good people but they showed there are more good people. I thank God. Somehow He loves me...They did more than I expected or deserved. It is not just the work they did. They did it with passion and with love. You could see it in their faces...in their smiles.

Skokie Homeowner commenting on Rebuilding Day 2014

Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago in partnership with social service providers, community leaders, donors and volunteers, helps low income homeowners and those with disabilities to live in dignity and to remain in their homes, safe, warm and dry. In addition to the tangible impact of our home repair work, we want the homeowners we help to feel cared for and respected-and proud of our work. We consider it a privilege to serve.

GENERAL REPORT ON ALL PROJECTS

We are pleased to share our 2014 Report about the impact we are making together. This past year we:

- Received 100 applications for free home repairs from Evanston to Zion
- Worked on 52 projects in 14 communities
- Served low-income homeowners, many of whom are seniors or Veterans, have disabilities, or care for a child with disabilities at home, as well as needy not for profits
- Worked with more than 500 volunteers, 33 volunteer groups and many donors

Here are a few of our stories from 2014:

Serving One Who Serves Others

For 17 years, this single working Mom was the caregiver for her Grandmother who had disabilities and used a wheel chair in her later years. When her Grandmother recently passed away and the Mom inherited the home, the hallway and kitchen were in extremely poor shape with broken floors and cabinets in disrepair. The Mom has since housed other ill family members in need. Rebuilding Together rehabbed this space.



Overjoyed, this kind homeowner said, "I am so used to doing for others but never having things done for me. 'Thanks' is not a good enough word to tell you how I feel. If ever I can help with anything big or small, please let me know."

An Elderly Couple Needed Help

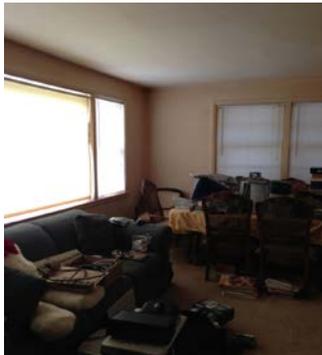
An elderly couple had worked hard until their retirement, caring for their family including a son with developmental disabilities. Now their limited income did not stretch to address essential home repairs. Their sink did not drain, the walls had not been painted in many years, the bathroom was not safe and more. To their great relief and joy, a talented volunteer Team replaced pipes under the sink, rodded and cleared the clogged drain and installed a new faucet. They installed grab bars and rails in the bath, repaired and painted drywall in the dining room, kitchen and den, installed new lights and did yard work, planting new plants, mulching and trimming. Our work allowed this retired couple to live in greater dignity.

Rebuilding Together Helps Our Heroes



A Veteran had served from 1948-1952 in Guam and Okinawa. But his home was in trouble. It had a strong odor of oil, due to two leaking oil tanks. Rebuilding Together drained and removed the tanks to provide a safer environment for this good Veteran.

A social service agency referred another Veteran who had served in Viet Nam. He needed painting and repairs to his windows and to his crumbling chimney. Two skilled teams addressed all these needs.



The homeowner said, ***"Everything went perfectly...they are a great bunch of girls and guys. At first they said they would just be working here for 1 day but they ended up working 2 1/2-3 days. It was a big time commitment. They were giving up a lot for somebody they don't know. The painting was tremendous. It looks like a brand new place. They paid great attention to detail. They replaced outlets, fixed the outside ledge....I greatly appreciate their service and their giving up their time!"***



An Explosive Device Specialist, this medically retired Marine, who served from 2001-2010 in Iraq and Afghanistan, was injured in a blast under his vehicle ending his service. He suffered many severe injuries and he and his family of five needed help. We replaced their leaking roof with a brand new roof.

His wife wrote, ***"It has definitely not been easy since John was medically retired from the Marine Corps....Since having the roof replaced, I have noticed...his stress level go down considerably. Not having a leaky roof always lingering on his mind has really lifted his spirits. Our family will always be eternally grateful for ...your help in making this all possible...Thank you and God bless,"***

Senior had Overwhelming Needs in her Home

This hard-working and delightful senior recently inherited her mother's home and she needed much help. For reasons outside the control of our applicant, the home had fallen into disrepair. The RBT volunteers, skilled and unskilled, worked wonders in this major project. They repaired basement plumbing, cleaned out attic and basement clutter, repaired down spouts, repaired stairs, repaired and painted interior walls, replaced a few windows, rehabbed the kitchen and more.



The homeowner stated, ***"I do not know how to describe it. You have opened up my eyes to what it means to give back. Now in my work with many seniors...I try to give back by assisting them in their needs with extra kindness. I thank the Lord so much you opened up my eyes. There are so many needy people out there; we never know who might need our help. I never would have imagined that I would get such an outpouring of love from you all. I have met so many people. I cannot remember everyone's names. I feel like I have so many new friends with all the volunteers. I felt like they all were my family, so I just called everybody my 'brother and sister.' If they ever need me I will be there for them too doing whatever I can do. I just love you all to death. I had such a good time that day I forgot to eat!"***

Deck was an Eyesore and a Hazard plus this Senior had other Needs



An energetic Team not only rebuilt this deck, but removed extensive basement and garage clutter, painted several rooms inside and provided a new range to a senior whose oven had not worked in many years.

The homeowner told us, ***"Sometimes I think I am dreaming...has all this good happened to me? It is unbelievable the good things that have happened to my house."***

Homeowner Improved her Home and the Neighborhood

A senior was eager to improve the exterior of her home which had badly peeling paint and a cluttered yard. A large volunteer Team with many skills to share painted the outside of the home and garage, repaired the

front door, replaced the entry awning, replaced the rotted sub-floor in both bathrooms, secured the toilets, installed new tile and removed nearly four dumpsters of unwanted items from the yard and garage.

After the project, the House Captain reported, ***"[The homeowner] and her family were present, active and involved...throughout the day and were very gracious and constantly expressing their thanks. We had a few RT t-shirts left over and [the homeowner] asked if she could have one. As I handed her the t-shirt, she began to cry, burying her face in the shirt and kept thanking us for all of the hard work. She and her children promised to pray for each of us and thanked us as we left. It was a very emotional experience for them and our volunteers felt like we had helped someone who truly needed and deserved it."***

Window Wells were a Small Part of a Very Big Project



Energetic Volunteers removed truck loads of unwanted items, replaced a floor, painted, re-paved a badly broken porch, repaired leaks. After the volunteer projects were completed, we provided a new roof.

The daughter said, ***"...[The work by RT and your volunteers] was the biggest blessing that our family needed. We did not know what we were going to do... RT gave us hope when we did not have any. Mom was ready to sell the house "as is" and give up. She was really depressed. [The project] really changed our mom and gave her something to look forward to. It put a gleam in her eyes. She is just so happy again."***

We are Neighbors Who Love to Help Other Neighbors



This good House Captain and his compassionate Team of more than 70 volunteers were determined to change the lives of this family who needed some help. The family entrusted this sensitive project to us, and we were able to remove extreme clutter and beautify their yard-transforming their home and their lives.

Every Year We Help Seniors Who Care for Adult Children with Disabilities

A senior was caring for her adult son with developmental disabilities as she struggled with her own physical challenges. She uses a walker and had a difficult time getting into and out of her home, which needed many repairs. A talented skilled volunteer built two concrete steps to improve access to the home, and a plumbing company installed a new toilet. Volunteers also installed a new sink, grab bars and light fixtures. They repaired walls and painted three rooms and the hallway. We were happy to help and this good Mom was thrilled.

Time to Organize and Spring Clean

"Many hands make light work." This truism is one of our mottos, as we help folks tackle big jobs. This senior's husband, who was recently deceased, was quite a saver. Hard-working volunteers cleaned out the basement and garage in no time.



The homeowner wrote, *"I have never written to a group of angels before, but I am sure they exist because I have had the pleasure of being the recipient of their blessings. I am forever grateful and I thank each and every one of you for giving up your Saturday to help a soul like me. I am so lucky to know you and thanks for everything."*

Our Mission is to Keep People Safe, Warm and Dry in their Homes

To that end, this year we replaced five furnaces for those whose furnaces were not working or unsafe.

One homeowner wrote, *"It is such a huge relief to me to have a safe furnace. I really feel that your group is helping me to rebuild not only my home but my peace of mind and my life."*

Volunteers Met a Challenge and Re-sided a House



In this extreme home make-over, the homeowner expressed great gratitude for the volunteers' hard work, for the fun interactions she had with everyone, and for her beautiful "new home."

We help Not for Profit Organizations



Every year we serve not for profits which provide residential and other services to those who are homeless or who have disabilities. This year we helped Rimland which serves autistic adults, painting 12 rooms in their main office and activities headquarters, performing repairs, and creating a giant mural to brighten their space.

Rimland's Executive Director said, *"Our Developmental Training Room looks astonishing. We truly cannot thank you for all the time you gave to us...The volunteers were very kind and extremely dedicated..."*

Impact of Our Work:

The stories above are just a sample of the 52 projects in 2014 which included:

- Two complete kitchen rehabs
- Five new furnaces
- Four new roofs
- Four new gutter systems
- Many bathroom renovations/improvements/grab bar installations
- Many plumbing repairs
- Many new floors installed
- Many rotted window frames repaired or replaced
- At least 13 new windows installed
- Many new doors installed
- Re-sided an entire home
- Porches and decks rebuilt
- Major outdoor sewer repair restored water to a home
- Two leaking oil tanks removed from a home
- At least seven new appliances provided
- Painted the interior and/or exterior of many homes
- Removed clutter and helped reorganize remaining possessions

The *Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago* network is comprised of donors, house captains and skilled and unskilled volunteers who make our work possible. We are grateful to all who support our mission. **Donations are greatly appreciated!**

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