

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015 PROJECTS

*"How blessed I was to have a group of volunteers come into my house and say,  
'what would you like me to do?'*

*You were so considerate and seemed to know right away my needs...The whole team was so polite and  
pleasant.....and I will be forever thankful for your kindness and generosity.*

*You took my mountain of worries and turned them into molehills!*

*Thank you and God bless you always."*

- Homeowner commenting on Rebuilding Day 2015

**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 2015 Report about the impact we are making together. This past year we:

- Received 96 applications for free home repairs from Evanston to Zion
- Worked on 53 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 only four of our many stories as Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago:***

#### **Serves families facing challenges...**

**Family #1:** Rebuilding Together had a profound impact on a family's health and safety in their home. The homeowner is a strong and inspiring working grandmother age 74, supporting her grown daughter with disabilities and her daughter's daughter age 8 in her home. Her application stated in part, ***"We bucket water from the kitchen to the bathroom."*** The bathroom had major plumbing problems, including no running water. In the spring a talented Team gutted the old bathroom and provided a new one. Rebuilding Together also painted and installed new gutters.



The homeowner said, **"I am in awe"** of what was done for us!

**Family #2:** This family had a challenging year which they faced with great courage. The father addressed unemployment and the teen son battled osteo sarcoma, requiring the amputation of his leg. On Rebuilding Day, an energetic Team lent a hand to this fine family who worked with us side by side.



The homeowner said, ***"Things are a lot nicer here. I appreciated all the hard work people put into it. It was fun for everyone. We were glad some of our family helped. We have a new roof and handrails for my son... They did a really nice job in the back yard and planted a lot of things. Their efforts were appreciated and we enjoyed having them here. It's fantastic everything everyone did."***

**Serves those who serves others**

**Family #3** Most of our homeowners have worked hard all their lives and have volunteered and helped others themselves to the extent they were able. This senior was providing a home for an adult son with severe physical issues and a grown nephew who was homeless, and was babysitting for a grown grandchild who had physical and developmental disabilities. She herself had serious health issues, yet her strength, constant smile and positive attitude inspired her Rebuilding Day Team.



The Team provided handicap accessibility throughout the house, new carpeting and wall repairs in the kitchen and living room, new doors in the bathroom and closet. They painted the interior and some of the exterior of the house, did yard work and planted flowers. While this Team has worked on many Rebuilding projects, they remarked that the memory of this homeowner's smile and kind words will stay with them for years to come. (This Homeowner's heartfelt thank you letter is quoted on the top of page one.)

**Family #4** This homeowner is a social worker who serves others as well as her own family. When her brother had a debilitating stroke, she provided him with a home and care. The floor of her condo was in serious disrepair, and caused her brother, who uses a walker, to trip many times. We provided new flooring throughout the condo and performed electrical repairs, to her great relief and delight.



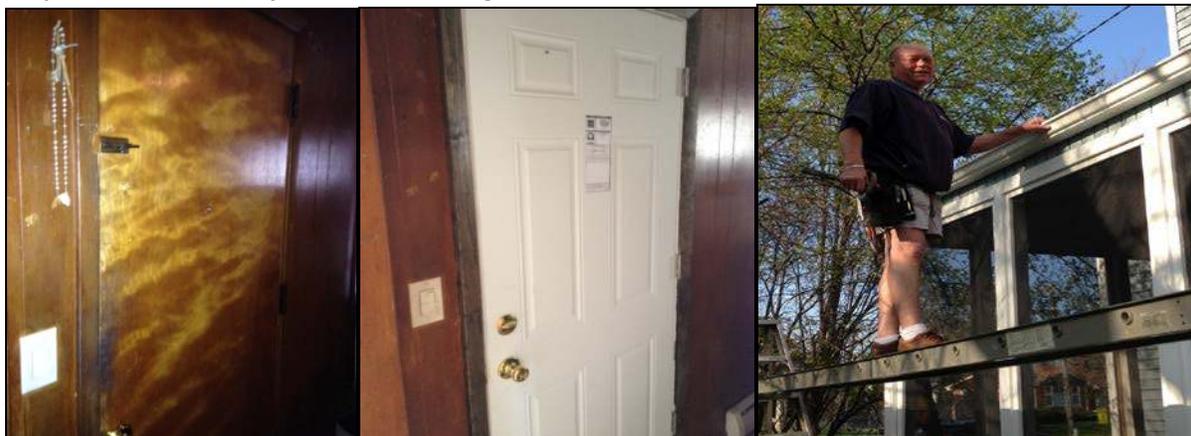
Here are a few photos of our work as we rehabbed a shower and installed grab bars...



Replaced a rotted and damaged floor...



Replaced one of many doors, installed gutters...



**Helped dispose of unwanted possessions and painted many homes.**



**A large, energetic and ambitious volunteer team also painted and performed repairs in five residential group homes of Rimland, a not for profit organization which serves adults with autism.**



**Impact of our work:**

Thanks to our donors and volunteers, in 2015 we accomplished the following, and more:

- Five new roofs and gutter systems
- Two new furnaces and several furnace and sump pump repairs
- Two new hot water heaters
- Two major bathroom rehabs
- Five outdoor railing systems and two exterior grab bars installed
- At least five new appliances provided (and four new appliances already provided in 2016)
- Many bathroom and kitchen renovations/improvements/grab bar installations
- Many plumbing repairs-ranging in scope
- Many new floors installed
- Many rotted window frames repaired or replaced
- Many new windows and many new doors installed
- Many porches and decks repaired, power-washed and/or stained
- Major bedbug remediation in a townhome
- Many landscaping improvements including major re-grading of one yard to prevent flooding
- 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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