HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016 PROJECTS

"Thank you for the awesome job of care, love and kindness. It is a treasure that will remain in my heart forever."
From a Homeowner’s thank you note after Rebuilding Day 2016

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

In 2016, we:
- Received over 100 applications for free home repairs from Evanston to Zion
- Worked on 45 single family homes and 72 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 some of our many stories from December of 2015 through December of 2016:

Keeping Neighbors Safe, Warm and Dry
A grandmother, her daughter with disabilities and her eight-year-old grand-daughter were living in cold and unsafe conditions. We installed ten new windows, doors and insulation. We also repaired the family’s outdoor well, performed electrical upgrades, and provided a new washer and dryer. (The prior spring, we gutted and renovated the bathroom, replaced rotted fascia and installed new gutters).

This gracious grandmother said, “God has blessed us immensely. These people are amazing.”

In another high impact project, a homeowner with disabilities was in danger of homelessness when her water service was turned off as a result of a frozen pipe that burst in her yard. She was using snow to flush her toilet. The local Health Dept. and City were taking steps to evict her due to these conditions. We repaired the broken pipe and restored water service from her home to the street, and installed her water meter in her home to bring it to Code. She broke down in tears when we told her we could help.
**Major Condo Rehab**

Social workers referred a neighbor striving for a better life, with great needs in a home he had inherited. The home had major plumbing problems, limited running water, broken appliances, hazardous flooring, aged wallpaper and more. In collaboration with social workers, the homeowner prepared the premises for a major rehab. A skilled Rebuilding Together team with a vision gutted and rehabbed the condominium giving the homeowner a new life. The Team and Rebuilding Together dedicated many resources to this project.
Two New Roofs
A distinguished Veteran had served 7 years, including a tour of duty building bridges in Korea at the end of the Korean War. After his service, he steadily worked for many years in building maintenance, which did not provide a pension. Social services referred him for help with his leaking roof because his social security income could not support this expense. **We replaced his leaking roof, to his great joy and relief.**

Another senior had serious health issues. She was worried about her actively leaking roof and the resulting structural damage. **We provided this good senior with a new roof, providing much peace of mind.**

Exterior Painting
A senior had many issues with her home and the neighbors were concerned. We did tuck-pointing and performed major plumbing repairs in 2015, and **in 2016 we painted the entire exterior of a home, restoring the homeowner’s pride in her home, and improving the surrounding neighborhood.**
Major Mobile Home Rehab
A senior worked as a caregiver until she hurt her back in a serious car accident in 2015 and now lives on her social security. While she can afford the modest rent for her mobile home’s lot, she depleted all her savings after her accident.

When her hot water heater leaked in July, 2016, she had no insurance or funds to replace it or to remediate the resulting damage.

The leak soaked not only the carpeting and flooring, but also the particle board underneath in two bedrooms, the hall and the bathroom. In addition, mold had begun to set in and without extensive repairs, her home would have been unsafe and uninhabitable.

We gutted her bathroom as we were afraid her tub would fall through the floor! We replaced the flooring in 3 rooms and hall, rehabbed the bathroom and provided her with a new hot water heater, enabling this senior to remain in her home in health and safety.
Chimney Repair and More
A homeowner had MS and difficulty walking. He received social security disability and his wife, age 62, had been laid off her job 2 years ago. The homeowners could not afford to fix their chimney, which had fallen off their roof. We fixed the chimney and also performed many repairs including plumbing repairs, providing a new sump pump, interior painting, landscaping, and refinishing first floor hardwood floors.
Serving Another Distinguished Veteran
We served a young Veteran who was medically retired as “90% disabled” after his tour of duty in Afghanistan. He contacted us when sewer water backed up into his home. **We rodded and repaired the sewer connecting the street with his home.**

We applied for and received a special Veterans grant in 2016 to make a permanent structural repair to the sewer.

We returned to the home in April of 2016 to repair and stain the deck, repair fencing, landscape and regrade a portion of the yard, repair steps, replace tiles and install carpeting.

**Impact of our work:**
Thanks to our donors and volunteers, in 2016 we accomplished the following and more:

- 4 new roofs and gutter systems
- 10 new appliances
- 3 major sewer repairs
- 3 major tuckpointing and chimney repairs
- 11 new windows installed
- 3 major floor replacement projects
- Many interior and exterior painting and wall repair projects
- Many plumbing projects including providing a new sump pump and several new hot water heaters
- Installation of many grab bars and railings
- Several major organizational/clutter projects
- Rebuilt a damaged porch and stairs and replaced fencing, in collaboration with Northwestern University
- Constructed a complex wheel chair ramp, in collaboration with Northwestern University
- Many handyman-type repairs, electrical improvements and landscaping projects

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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