HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS 2017

"Because of everything you've done for us, our house looks absolutely amazing and we have a newfound appreciation for our home. It has truly changed the course of our lives, both literally and on an emotional level, and that's all thanks to you..." (from a homeowner’s email)

Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago in partnership with social service providers, community leaders, donors and volunteers, helps our neighbors who need essential home repairs they cannot afford 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, respected and proud of our work. We consider it a privilege to serve.

GENERAL REPORT ON ALL PROJECTS

In 2017, we:

• Received over 100 applications for free home repairs from Evanston to Zion
• Worked on 45 single family homes and one not for profit organization in 11 communities
• Served our neighbors in need, 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, 30 volunteer groups and many donors

Here are some of our many stories from the year 2017...

A Home Transformed

Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago performed extensive repairs and improvements for a senior who supports her adult son with disabilities in her home. Talented volunteer teams (1) painted the interior and installed a new door (2) tore off and rebuilt the front porch (3) installed and stained a new fence and (4) built a beautiful new patio. In addition, we repaired rotted soffit and fascia, and a generous local roofer donated a new roof and gutters to us, completing the transformation of this home. This good homeowner, who had worked hard all her life, said, “I am so blessed. I could never have afforded to do all this.”

Before.... After...
Accessibility and Painting Improvements

A senior with arthritis and her daughter with MS both use wheelchairs and did not have safe access into and out of their home. A skilled volunteer team built a new 48-foot wheelchair ramp, replacing a rusted and precarious one, and also rebuilt their unsafe back steps. Volunteers also landscaped, planting a lovely perennial garden in the front of the home. More volunteers transformed the inside with a fresh coat of paint and other repairs. This fine family was thrilled and we were so grateful that we had the resources to help.
After...

**Major Rehab**
An Evanston senior is supporting two minor grandchildren as well as assisting their mother (her daughter) in her home. The family's kitchen was in very bad shape with broken appliances, missing cabinet doors, damaged flooring and more. Another skilled volunteer group gutted and remodeled the kitchen, to the great relief and joy of this giving grandmother, working hard and struggling to make ends meet.

**Before...**
Another Makeover
In this major project, we helped a family with a myriad of essential repairs to remain in their home in safety. Skilled pros replaced a rotted bay window, crumbling floors, rotted doors, door frames, window frames and soffits. They removed wallpaper and power-washed and painted inside and out. Skilled contractors also performed electrical, HVAC and tuck-pointing repairs. Volunteers removed clutter and an old swing set and landscaped, completing the transformation of this home.
As in all our projects, it was a great privilege to serve this wonderful family. The very gracious single working mom stated in part as follows: “Thank you all so much for putting so much time and effort into helping us rebuild our home...The transformation was unbelievable and eye-opening to the kind of miracles that can happen when people come together.

We sincerely cherish all of your hard work and will ensure with all our might that the house stays in its newly-restored condition in order to best reflect the amount of love and goodness you have poured into it! Again, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you so much for everything.”

**Impact of our work:**
Thanks to our donors and volunteers, in 2017 we accomplished the following and more:

- 3 new roofs and gutter systems
- 6 new appliances
- Gutted and rehabbed kitchen/3 bathrooms
- Major sewer repair
- Tuckpointing and chimney repairs
- Rebuilt a hazardous crumbling chimney at one home
- HVAC replacement and repairs
- Many windows repaired or replaced
- Multiple floor replacements
- 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
- Major clutter remediation and reorganizing at 6 homes
- Tore down and rebuilt 2 damaged porches and stairs and replaced fencing
- Constructed a large and complex 48-foot wheel chair ramp
- Many handyman-type repairs, electrical improvements and landscaping projects

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

Donations are greatly appreciated.

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