



## **2021 Highlights Report**

*"I wouldn't have a home if it wasn't for [Rebuilding Together]. God has blessed me, but so have you guys. You have saved a lot of lives in helping us. I would not have opened the door to my son's friend who needed a place to stay if it wasn't for you. I mean this literally...you guys gave me the door!"*

-A working mom with a family of seven-see first story, below.

**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 so they can live in dignity and remain in their homes, safe, warm and dry. We want the homeowners we help to feel cared for, respected and proud of our work. We consider it a privilege to serve.

### **DURING OUR 2021 FISCAL YEAR (7/1/20-6/30/21) we:**

- Processed over 100 applications for free home repairs from Evanston to Zion
- Worked on 39 homes, including one not-for-profit residential home for those with developmental disabilities, in 11 communities
- Served our neighbors in need, many of whom are seniors, veterans, families with children or those with disabilities
- Worked with many skilled contractor partners and donors to transform homes and lives

### **HERE ARE A FEW OF OUR STORIES**

#### **Responding to Pressing Calls for Help – Ice Damming Caused Big Trouble at Two Homes**

We repaired the ice-damaged soffits and fascia and installed new gutters, performed major carpentry repairs and painted, to benefit a family of seven. Earlier in the year, we performed a major sewer repair to prevent sewage from backing up into the family's basement. In past years had provided other significant help. As stated in her quotation at the beginning of this Report, this mom noted that we even "gave her the door."





In a second project, we assisted a senior caring for her mother, who has Alzheimer's disease, in their home.



The daughter said, ***"I do not even have the words for your basically running in like a cavalry to help! To hear the giant crashing of a gutter falling off our house was something I had never experienced before...I did not know where to begin or what to do...[Rebuilding Together North Suburban] dealt with the ice and finished the gutter. It was so kind and generous of everyone to help with this big repair! Miracles do happen!"***

### **A Big Year for Replacing Roofs**

We replaced six aged and actively leaking or seriously deteriorated roofs. In most cases we replaced the gutter systems too.

**Roof Story #1**-We assisted a highly regarded community leader who had come up against difficult circumstances after giving back to his community for many years.



**Roof Story #2**-We helped a single working mother of three children ages 8, 9 and 11 living in Waukegan.



The grateful Mom stated in part as follows:

***“At age 25 I purchased a home for myself and my children...a huge step for us after a few years of hardship. [But after a few years,] I had a huge problem looming over my head, my roof. I filled out an application.....My project was approved and my eyes filled with tears as I could not be more grateful for this huge opportunity. The project was done quickly and professionally...At first it sounded too good to be true, but then after seeing it all happen before my eyes, I realized what a blessing this was to be chosen to have this work done to my house. I no longer have the anxiety of figuring out how to pay for my roof...I could not begin to explain my appreciation for Rebuilding Together [North Suburban Chicago] and how this has really blessed my family. Rebuilding Together [North Suburban Chicago] is making such an imprint in our community. I hope they can continue to bless more families like they did mine.”***

-Testimonial of 4/18/22 from a single working mom of three in Waukegan (roof completed 6/2021)

**Roof Story #3**-We helped a distinguished 22-year veteran of the U.S Navy, with service in Viet Nam. In his older years, he suffered from several strokes. He has limited mobility and difficulty speaking, and his wife who is his



caregiver also has disabilities. We replaced their actively leaking roof, and also performed a critical electrical repair, resulting in a safer and healthier home for this fine family.



**Roof Story #4**-A senior homeowner owned a two-flat and hoped to rent the available unit to a tenant qualified for subsidized housing under HUD's Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program. A severe roof leak and two precarious chimneys had caused structural damage. Repairs needed to be done in order for the building to qualify for this Program. First, we rebuilt the chimneys.



Next Smart Roofing tackled the roof.



The grateful homeowner stated as follows: ***"I just wanted to say thanks to you and all of the staff and volunteers at Rebuilding Together for all of the awesome help that you have been able to provide me in helping to make the vital and necessary improvements on my home. It truly has been a blessing to have been a recipient of the wonderful work that your organization does for helping to sustain and improve the quality of life for***



*homeowners throughout the North Shore suburban communities. I can never thank you and all of your team enough for all of the assistance and support you have given me with improving and beautifying my home. You guys are truly amazing and I appreciate all of the wonderful work that you have done for me very much!!!!!"*

**A Major Bathroom Rehab Benefits a Family of Four with Children**

The application of this Waukegan family of four had been pending for some time. We had to wait until they received a mortgage accommodation, and for the pandemic to ease, to assist them with their non-working tub and shower. (We did, however, replace their water heater a few years ago, despite the uncertainty with their mortgage situation.) The parents bucketed water to basement laundry tubs for the son, age 5 with autism, and daughter, age 10, to bathe. Our extensive rehab included providing a new tub, shower and sink and floor in their only bathroom, performing major plumbing repairs and repairing extensive damage from the leaking tub.





### **IMPACT OF OUR WORK:**

Thanks to our donors, skilled tradespersons and volunteer teams, in our 2021 fiscal year (7/1/20-6/30/21) we accomplished the following and more:

- Provided new roofs at six homes (most received new gutters as well) and performed roof repairs at two homes
- Major mobile home rehab, including installing new venting, insulation, moisture barrier and skirting to restore heat to the home and improve plumbing
- Rehabbed one partial and one full bathroom at two single family homes
- Replaced flooring or installed new carpeting at two homes
- Installed four new furnaces, a central air conditioning system and two new water heaters, and performed a complex furnace repair
- Provided six new appliances
- Major sewer repairs at two homes and drainage repair at a third home
- Repaired/replaced gutters at four homes (in addition to gutter repairs included with roof repairs)
- Repaired/replaced hazardous concrete walkways or stairs at two homes
- Installed exterior railing system at one home
- Replaced two essential fences and performed fence repairs and gate installations at two other homes
- Critter removal from under roofs at two homes and completed repairs to prevent future infestation
- Vented a dryer through brick wall to exterior of home
- Replacement of a skylight
- Carpentry and structural repairs at four single family homes and one condo
- Painting outside and inside at many homes and one not-for-profit home for people with disabilities
- Major tuckpointing and chimney rebuild at three homes
- Structural repairs and exterior painting at two single-family homes
- Ceiling rehab
- Serious clutter remediation
- Worked with Code Enforcement in two communities to address broken and hazardous driveway and overgrown yard, which prevented citations against homeowners

**The *Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago* network is composed of donors, house captains, skilled and unskilled volunteers, tradespersons and contractors who make our work possible.**

**We are grateful to all who support our mission. Donations are greatly appreciated.**

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