

2024 Highlights Report

"The organization of Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago has been such a blessing to me... The kindness and dedication shown to me by the Rebuilding Together Team is beyond measure. I don't know what I would have done about the plumbing in my home without you."

*- Homeowner
(see story on page 5)*

Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago

in partnership with social service providers, community leaders, donors, skilled contractor partners 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. We want the homeowners we work with to feel cared for, respected and proud of our work. We consider it a privilege to serve.

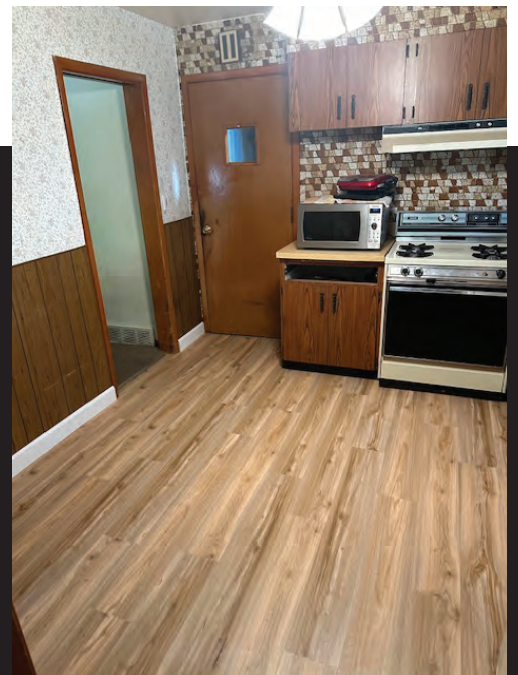
DURING OUR 2024 FISCAL YEAR (7/1/23-6/30/24) WE:

- Processed over 100 applications for free home repairs from Evanston to Zion
- Worked on 66 homes and one not-for-profit organization in 18 communities
- Served our neighbors in need, many of whom are seniors, veterans, families with children or those with disabilities
- Organized Volunteer Team Projects with 16 teams at 14 homes with over 200 volunteers
- Worked with many skilled contractor partners and donors to transform homes and lives

Here Are a Few of Our Stories

Kitchen Floor and Bathroom Rehabs were Critical

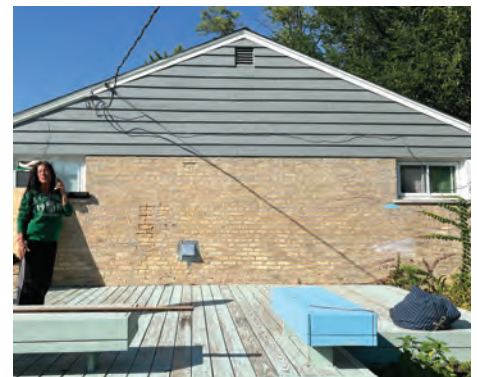
North Shore Senior Center referred a homeowner with multiple disabilities who used a wheelchair. His home had many safety concerns, including a severely damaged kitchen floor, a full bathroom which was inaccessible and in very poor shape, and a second bathroom which was not functional. We replaced the kitchen floor, did partial rehabs of both bathrooms, and installed a handrail in the stairwell, vastly improving the health and safety of his home.



Restoring a Home and Hope

A woman faced a number of challenges, including suffering the loss of her savings due to fraud. She found herself unable to afford essential home repairs and improvements. In projects straddling our 2024 and 2025 fiscal years, first we tackled her extremely unruly yard. Two volunteer teams spent two weekends doing extensive landscaping, including removing large bushes, yard cleanup and planting. They also installed a fence. The teams power-washed and stained the deck, painted the front door red, replaced the wood paneling on the outside of the carport, patched the garage roof, and more.

We followed up with skilled professionals who installed insulation in this home which had none, and completed the transformation with extensive exterior painting. The homeowner told us that we had lifted her up during a difficult time in her life, and was overjoyed about the improvements we were able to make to her home.



A Ramp Improves a Veteran's Life

A senior veteran with Parkinson's Disease and his wife support their daughter who has a disability. The husband's balance had deteriorated, and he had difficulty getting in and out of the house. In a major project, we built a large accessibility ramp and replaced and stained exterior stairs. He can now leave his home for medical appointments and can enjoy fresh air on the deck.

Major Help for a Hero and his Family

This Bronze Star Vietnam Veteran with dementia is also an accomplished musician. His wife is a proudly retired CPS teacher who suffers physical challenges due to cancer. Their adult son has a disability and lives with them. Their village referred them after issuing a citation for their dilapidated garage. After seeing the extensive need, we applied for a Lowe's Veterans Grant on their behalf, adding significant funds of our own to transform their home and lives. Using the entire Lowe's grant, plus our own funding, we replaced 18 windows in the home that were leaking air and structurally unsound. Our own funds also supported the rest of our extensive work, where we hired skilled partners to replace the crumbling concrete stoop and steps, install handrails, grab bars, and an ADA compliant toilet. We provided a new mini heat pump to create a first-floor bedroom habitable for the Veteran, and replaced the refrigerator.

On Rebuilding Day, volunteers from Northbrook's Lowe's team and other skilled volunteers stained the home's addition, painted the trim, did substantial structural repairs to the garage, and more.

Leo Milano and Vision Construction further extended our reach by donating labor and materials. Vision's contractors repaired extensive interior water damage and painted several rooms. They transformed the kitchen by replacing the damaged counters with a new quartz countertop, installing a new stainless-steel faucet and sink and ceiling light fixture and painting.



Assisting a Senior to Remain in her Home

A senior was victimized by a family member who significantly damaged her home. The homeowner is now covered by an order of protection and has strong community support. Floor and Wall replaced the destroyed carpeting in the living room, bedroom, hallway and stairs. Contractors performed electrical work, repaired plumbing, repaired a storm door and installed grab bars. A volunteer team completed the transformation, cleaning up the interior and exterior of the home.



Dilapidated Garage was a Big Problem

This 81-year-old widow was cited by her city for her unsightly and structurally unsound garage. Our partners from Team Rubicon joined us on Rebuilding Day to tear down her garage. We also installed a new chain link fence.



Bathroom Rehab Deeply Needed

This widowed homeowner who provides a home for her adult daughter originally came to our attention last year as the family was living without a stove, needed numerous repairs and had a tremendous amount of unwanted possessions. We addressed many deep needs, and continued to help in the 2024 fiscal year. We replaced a leaking skylight, rehabbed a deteriorated bathroom, removed a large tree limb that fell during a storm, and repaired the section of their fence it destroyed.



A Remarkable Centenarian Needs Big Help with Serious Sewer Back-ups

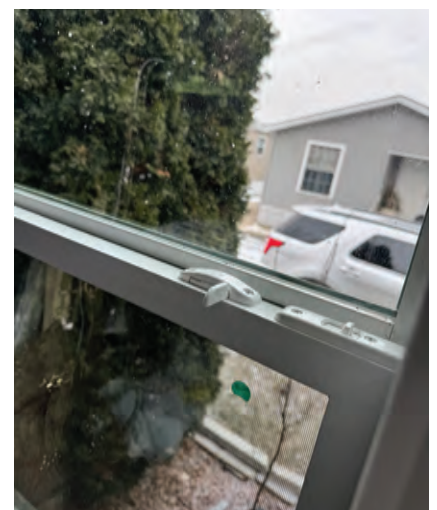
An independent and resourceful 102-year-old living on an extremely limited income has a granddaughter and great-granddaughter who are devoted to her, but live out of state. Neighbors lend support too, along with social services. Our homeowner thrives in her home, and over the years we have helped her with various critical repairs. In our fiscal years 2024 and 2025, we responded to two emergencies when her sewer backed up into her home and rendered her water unusable. Mergenthaler Plumbing excavated and did a major sewer repair, following up with more rodding and gravel removal when it backed up again.



Profound Transformation of a Family's Home and Life

When this homeowner came to us, she was a single mom with four sons ages four months to 17 years old, and she was storing perishable food on the porch as her refrigerator did not work. She had purchased a mobile home several years ago in a community with good schools to provide opportunities for her children. She thought that she and her very handy friend, now her husband, could make the necessary home improvements themselves. But the couple found the repairs to be more costly and complex than they had anticipated.

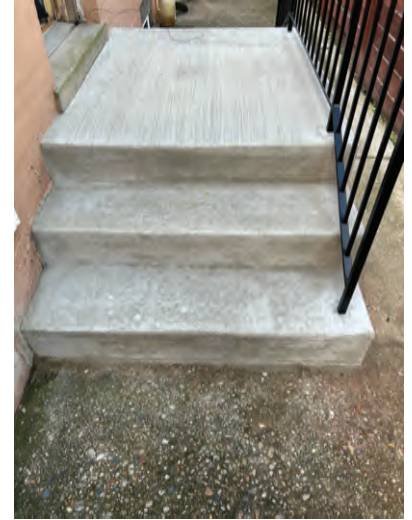
We were overjoyed that we had the resources to help this wonderful family transform their home to a place of health and safety. We replaced the broken refrigerator and also installed a dishwasher as she had none. All of the windows were broken, rotted and/or leaking, and we replaced them. In the kitchen and living room, we repaired/replaced walls and ceilings, installed new subfloors and flooring, and provided new lighting. We did a complete gut and rehab of the master bathroom, replacing the leaking tub. We also replaced the siding on the front of the home. To provide more storage, we installed shelving in the kitchen.



Major Home Improvements for a Senior Who Supports her Son with Disabilities

Our homeowner is a single mother with an adult son with special needs who lives with her. Her ex-husband worked on remodeling years ago, creating some highly problematic situations inside, including covering the main water shutoff valve and an electrical junction box with drywall.

We uncovered the water shutoff valve and electrical junction box, repaired the drywall and painted. We relocated the washer, dryer and dryer vent, and renovated both bathrooms. We installed lighting, three ceiling fans, and two new storm doors, and performed plumbing and door repairs. Contractors also replaced the exterior back steps. On Rebuilding Day, a volunteer team cleaned out the two-story garage.



We Have Never Seen This Before- Brick Exterior Wall Fell Off the Home

The exterior brick façade collapsed on the home of a senior widow with disabilities. Her insurance company denied coverage. Social services referred her to us after her village cited her for the condition of her home. We disposed of the fallen-down bricks, removed and replaced rotten plywood, and installed insulation and new vinyl siding.

A Senior's Yard was Causing Trouble

A village hoped to avoid issuing a citation to a resident in financial need, and referred this homeowner to us after her neighbors complained about her overgrown and unruly yard. We enlisted a team from the Northbrook Lowe's for a volunteer day. The team removed extensive overgrowth, some of which required a portable woodchipper, provided by Lowe's. They trimmed trees, removed bushes and transformed the yard from an eyesore to a place of calm, much to the delight of the homeowner and her neighbors too.



Senior's Leaking Roof was Almost 50 Years Old

This senior homeowner supports an adult son with a serious disability in her home. Roofers completely tore off her leaking roof, nearly 50 years old, replacing deck boards, underlayment, ice and water shield and shingles, and installing gutters. Next, plumbers fixed a clogged drain with power rodding and pipe patching. We also reglazed a window. On Rebuilding Day, a team performed extensive yard-work.

Impact of Our Work

Thanks to our donors, skilled tradespersons and volunteer teams, in our 2024 fiscal year (7/11/23-6/30/24) we accomplished the following and more:

- New roofs at four single family homes
- Gut and rehab of eight bathrooms in great disrepair, and tub modification for accessibility at one home
- Replaced flooring and/or installed new carpeting at nine homes, including replacing the subflooring in three of these homes (these floors are in addition to the above-mentioned bathrooms)
- Installed two combined furnace/air conditioning systems, one new furnace and one central air unit
- Provided 20 new appliances
- Performed major plumbing repairs in at least 16 homes
- Installed exterior railings and grab bars in at least 14 homes along with other safety modifications
- Addressed basement leaks and mold at one home
- Installed one new fence and repaired three
- Performed many carpentry repairs, including installing 13 doors and/or screen doors, and repairing four porches
- Performed concrete repairs of stairs and/or walkways at five homes
- Installed new gutters at one home
- Painted the exterior and/or interior of more than 21 homes
- Tore down a hazardous garage which was dangerous and subject to a citation from a municipality

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

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

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