

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Did you know that **Rebuilding Together Tri-County (RTT)** is one of 114 nonprofit affiliates in 37 states providing no cost home repairs to ensure the on-going health, safety and security of eligible homeowners?

Our affiliate is small, but mighty. Led by an all-volunteer board that meets monthly, RTT is funded exclusively through individual and organizational donations. With minimal overhead, most of our funds are used to cover the cost of building materials. Home repairs are completed by volunteer crews, usually over a single day.

In 2023, **86 volunteers** donated **over 500 hours** to complete repairs on **10 homes** in the three counties we serve. Before work begins, all eligible homes are evaluated using our *25 Health and Safety Checklist* to ensure critical health and safety issues are addressed.

In 2024 **Rebuilding Together Tri-County** plans to *elevate our visibility* in the communities we serve; to *expand the scope and reach of our services* through additional funding (e.g., community grants); and to *utilize the expertise of qualified contractors* to complete larger, more complex repairs (e.g., roof replacement). Our annual Rebuilding Day is scheduled for April 27, 2024.

To accomplish these goals, we are seeking **NEW** volunteer Board members with project planning experience, community connections, public speaking skills, technical skills (database, web), fundraising experience, marketing expertise, etc. Board and committee assignments typically require 2-3 hours a

YOUR DONATION HAS IMPACT!

\$25 covers the cost of an *ADA-approved grab bar* that can prevent bathroom slips and falls.

\$50 covers the cost of a new *stairwell banister and hardware*, allowing safe passage on stairs.

\$100 covers the cost to replace a broken *kitchen faucet*, providing safe and clean access to water.

\$250 covers the cost to replace an *exterior door and casing*, creating safe and secure home access.

A pledge form & return envelope are enclosed.

Online donations can be made at any time on our website: www.rebuildtogethertricounty.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

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2023 Homeowner Profiles (see more profiles on our website)



Jim is a disabled American Veteran (USMC). He is totally and permanently disabled due to toxic-water exposure since he was discharged at Camp Lejeune in 1976.

He attended Eastern University and received a Masters in Rehabilitative Counseling from MSU. He is an expert on the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and was appointed by Governor Granholm to the Developmental Disabilities Council in 2007 and the Barrier Free Design Board in 2009.

Jim lives in a modest home in Lansing that is tidy and well-maintained. However, due to his physical disabilities and low-income, he is unable to complete home repairs on his own. Our volunteer team fixed window sashes and locks, put together a worktable, recaulked the bathtub, repaired a kitchen sink cabinet, and did extensive yardwork.

When asked about the experience, James shared, “It’s awesome! This lifted a huge load off of my shoulders. Because of my disability and low income, when things break and get moldy, I am unable to fix them on my own. I’m grateful to Rebuilding Together Tri-County for spending a day with me and fixing up my house.”

Gwen has lived in her home in the Allen Street neighborhood for 32 years. Gwen grew up in Tennessee where she began her career as a nurse. When she and her husband moved to Lansing, Gwen worked for the Veterans Administration and for an adult living facility. She served others as a nurse for 44 years.

Recently Gwen fell, hit her head, and fractured her knee. She has trouble walking and is unable to do repair work on her home.

On April 29, 2023, Rebuilding Day, a dedicated crew of 18 volunteers worked to upgrade, improve and make safety repairs to Gwen’s home. Our crew, led by veteran builder Jim N., completed numerous upgrades including: replacing the kitchen floor and installing a new garbage disposal; replacing a bathroom light and installing grab bars for safety; replacing rotting back door steps with durable, safe built to last steps; installing two new screen doors and smoke detectors; cleaning gutters and adding new drain spouts; raking and filling 24 bags of yard waste; power washing the porch and front of the house; scraping and painting the front porch and balusters.

Gwen expressed her thanks, “The floor is beautiful! The steps are sturdy and safe. I’m so grateful for all you’ve done. I couldn’t have done this without y’all!”



WHO WE SERVE

Veterans • Female-Heads of Households • Families with Children • Disabled Persons • Older Adults • People of Color