

The RTP Solution and Your Dollars Operation Urgent Care Assistance in 2007

Problem

Harold, age 78, called one afternoon in February. His stack pipe had been frozen for 4 days and every drain in the house was backed up. Since he could not flush the commode, he stopped eating and drinking for fear he would have to use the bathroom.

Shirley is an elderly widow. RTP received a call from a neighbor in February that stated Shirley's furnace broke and her only means of keeping warm was to use an old kerosene heater. Shirley's income was a mere \$700 a month and she could just barely pay her taxes and utilities.

Betsy called one April morning. She is 89 years old and lives in Beltzhoover. At 1:00 a.m. police broke into her home by destroying the front door. They had mistakenly thought her home housed a certain person of interest. When they left, they placed her broken door in the hallway. Betsy had no front door and was scared someone would enter the home and cause her harm. She had no funds to pay for a new door and did not know anyone that could do the work.

Solution

RTP hired a professional plumber to go to Harold's home. The plumber responded within twelve hours, and the stack pipe was defrosted and repaired. Harold was sipping on hot tea and eating crackers when the plumber left.

RTP hired a heating contractor who arrived at Shirley's home within two hours of our call. The contractor installed a part and the furnace was working fine.

RTP hired a contractor to purchase and install a new door.

The Difference

\$625 later, Harold was happy and he did not need to relocate to a temporary shelter. RTP was happy Harold was eating again. Funds assisting Harold were donated by Mellon Corporation Foundation.

\$392 later, Shirley had heat although it took a few hours to warm up the home. Shirley remained warm and safe and was not removed from her home. Funds assisting with this crisis were designated by individuals through their United Way Donor Option Plan.

\$625 later, Betsy had a new front door and felt safe from intruders especially with her new set of locks. Funds assisting Shirley's repair emergency were donated by DSF Foundation.



Our Programs

REBUILDING DAY EVENT

Takes place the last Saturday in every April. More than 1,000 skilled and non-skilled volunteers and contributors deliver free home repair and modification services to qualifying applicants throughout Allegheny County. Since 1993 more than 850 homes owned by low-income elderly homeowners have been repaired and renovated so they can "age in place" in a warm and safe home environment.

OPERATION URGENT CARE

Provides free emergency repair services twelve months a year to qualifying low-income senior homeowners in Allegheny County. Emergencies include heating, plumbing, electrical, modifications and roofing needs.

CORPORATE WORKDAYS

Special sponsored workdays in the summer. A group of volunteers can arrange to spend a Saturday working on a single home delivering free light to moderate repairs and safety modifications.

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Phone: 412-922-0953

Fax: 412-922-3729

www.rebuildingtogether-pgh.org

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Letter From the President



Dear friends:

It is with great excitement that I write this, my first letter as President of the Board of Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh. RTP had an amazing year in 2007, and we will do even more in 2008. Last year, our annual Rebuilding Day improved 29 homes, two community centers and two parks in Lawrenceville, delivering over \$450,000 in labor and materials. During the rest of the year, particularly in the winter months, we provided 163 emergency repairs to seniors in need of heat, running water or other repairs necessary to allow them to continue to live in safety, warmth and independence.

By way of introduction, I am an attorney with the law firm of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott, LLP. Although I am a native of Western Pennsylvania, I first learned of Rebuilding Together when I was attending law school in Atlanta. Back then it was called "Christmas in April," but the mission was the same. When I arrived in the morning, I saw hundreds of people working on dozens of houses in a blighted neighborhood in East Atlanta. In just eight hours, we were able to completely transform a dangerously decaying home into a safe and functional place to live. Back then, I had no idea just how much planning and support was required to make that happen.

I now know that it takes the commitment of hundreds of people who spend a day making a real impact on individual lives, and fostering positive change in a whole community. It takes the financial support of individuals, business and foundations. It takes partnerships, such as our partnership with the American Society of Home Inspectors that helps us evaluate the hundreds of requests for assistance we receive every year. And, most importantly, it takes a lot of hard work by our dedicated staff.

There will be plenty of opportunities to help us help others in 2008. Our annual Rebuilding Day is April 26, part of the largest single-day volunteer home improvement project in the country. Our annual fundraiser, North Shore Club Noir, will be held at Heinz Field on July 11. We also organize workdays throughout the year, giving businesses and groups an opportunity to come together to help renovate a local home for a deserving senior. We hope that 2008 will be the year you join us in making a real impact in our community.

Sincerely,
Chad Michaelson

NEW RTP BOARD OFFICERS ANNOUNCED!

Chad Michaelson was named new RTP Board President. Chad is an attorney with Meyer Unkovic & Scott and has served on the board for two years. Serving as Vice President is **Frank Hammond**. Frank is Vice President of Corporate Affairs for the Bank of New York Mellon. **Patrick Armknecht** serves as the Treasurer. Pat is the Business Development Manager of the Technology Advisors Group at Schneider Downs. Serving as Board Secretary is **Sandie Gagorik**. Sandy is a Manager of Universal Services and Community Outreach for Equitable Gas. Welcome!

In addition we welcome several other new 2008 Board Members including Dave Burnworth, Giant Eagle; Daniel Cerrone, Jr., Thorp Reed & Armstrong LLP; Charlene McDonough, Master Builders' Association and Jason Tigano, Urban Redevelopment Authority.
Thank you for committing time and service to this for-impact organization.

P r e s e n t i n g
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Duquesne Light

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Sheraton Station Square Hotel

Eisenhower Elementary

Valspar Corporation

T h a n k Y o u ! T h a n k Y o u ! T h a n k Y o u !

Our
Mission...

"Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh" is a nonprofit organization that rehabilitates the houses of low-income homeowners, particularly those who are elderly or have disabilities, so they may continue to live in warmth, safety and independence.



Meet RTP's Professional Volunteer Team

2008 Home Previewers:

Rudy Benedetti, Gerry Maynard, Sharon Glover, Ryan Frawley, Bob French,
Todd Havekotte, Dave Matta and Jack Corton

2008 Area Coordinators:

Bob French, Project Manager for Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh
Steve Dauberger, Volpatt Construction
Rudy Benedetti, Board Member
Ryan Frawley, Retired Military
Chuck Schons, Oxford Development Inc.

Introducing the 2008 Skilled Volunteer House Captains:

Michael Derda, TEDCO Construction
Jason Emricko, Bechtel Group Foundation
Bob Imblum, Mascaro Construction
Brian Friend, Brickman Group
Rich Joyce, Joycebilt Construction
Dave Lyle, Carpenters
Rob Modany, Continental Building Systems
Ned Trbovich, Dick Corp.
Joe Wardman, Burchick Construction
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Jason Koss, Constructors Assoc.
Larry Clark, Carpenters
Chad Sipes, Chad Sipes Construction
David Nestler, Wyatt, Inc.
Rick Okraszewski, Carpenter Apprentice Program
Harry Thompson, VBInspect.com
Harold McDonald, Carpenters
Aaron Flook, American Society of Home Inspectors

And 20 Occupational Therapists from Duquesne University, Chatham College and University of Pittsburgh

Thanks for Providing the Skill and Knowledge Necessary to Rebuild and Modify Homes in Pittsburgh!

Yes, We Still Need Your Help for the Largest One Day Home Repair Event in the Country Scheduled for, April 26.

1. **Skilled Carpenters, Plumbers, and Electricians** – Skilled volunteers are needed to complete highly specialized projects during workday. The more skilled volunteers RTP has, the more successful the repair projects and event. Time Commitment: 2 – 8 hours at one home site.
2. **Happy Volunteers** – This person usually loves to help others and feels good about improving the lives of those in need. A volunteer will be appointed to a housing site to help complete a project on Rebuilding Day. Time commitment: 6 – 8 hours.
3. **Warehouse Volunteers** – Warehouse volunteers are needed to organize materials and supplies for distribution. Time commitment: April 24, 25 & 26 for as much time as you can give.
4. **Financial Contributors** – Even if you cannot join more than 1,000 volunteers for this one day event, please consider a financial gift to purchase one of the following:

\$25 to purchase grab bars _____
\$500 to purchase a water heater _____

\$100 to purchase new floor tile _____
\$750 for a new electric service _____

It's easy and rewarding to join the RTP Team. Call 412-922-0953 for more information or send your contribution to:

*Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh
110 Parkway View Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15205*

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh is an IRS-approved 501c3. Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction. A copy of the official registration and financial information about RTP may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.



SAVE The Date!

North Shore Club Noir
RTP Fundraiser set for July 11, 2008

The friends of Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh invite you to step back in time to the speakeasy days to help RTP revive the sights and sounds of the North Shore Club Noir. There will be live entertainment, scrumptious food and beverages and gaming stations at the Heinz Field East Club on July 11, starting at 6 pm. Invitations will be distributed in April. For more information, contact Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh at 412-922-0953.

RTP is an independent, local affiliate of Rebuilding Together, Inc., which supports 235 affiliates nationally serving 1,880 communities across America. RTP is the largest nonprofit preserving affordable homeownership in the United States.

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