



# Rebuilding Together™

## Baltimore

2005



## Two Rebuilding Days – Twice the Fun

If possible, I think the enthusiasm of our volunteers, our board, and our staff has reached new heights! We carried out not one, but two rebuilding days this year. The first one, on April 17, was a beautiful spring day. All of the projects were in the Reservoir Hill neighborhood in Baltimore City. Volunteers repaired several houses and completed a number of community projects, including landscaping a main corridor through the neighborhood and upgrading a community garden.

In case you forgot - our April 30 Rebuilding Day was in the pouring rain. Do you think that dampened the enthusiasm of our volunteers? Think again. Teams arrived on time, cheerful and ready to work. Although there were several reports of paint taking forever to dry, and not all outside projects were completed as planned, all of the teams worked to complete high priority projects.

Rain impacts every project, but particularly our community projects, which focus on neighborhood beautification and are primarily outdoor projects. Again, our volunteers were simply amazing! They refused to let a little (okay, a lot of) rain get in the way of what they had come to do. These dedicated volunteers landscaped a new senior center in the county, and picked up trash and gardened in the city.

At the end of the day, homeowners and residents in our two neighborhoods, Reservoir Hill and Woodlawn, were overwhelmed by the generosity and spirit of the volunteers. As Angela, one of our homeowners said, "Rebuilding Day was a very joyous day....I will always remember the smiles, the laughter, the spirit, the mud and the rain."

I want to thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to Rebuilding Together. With your help, we are working to solve the housing needs of low-income homeowners in Baltimore city and county.

See you next year!

*Karen Healey*

*President*

*Rebuilding Together Baltimore*



**REBUILDING TOGETHER IMPACT**

### Baltimore Impact Since 1990

876 homes repaired  
17,900 volunteers mobilized  
\$4.9 million invested in  
28 at-risk neighborhoods

### National Impact Since 1972

96,120 homes repaired  
2.5 million volunteers mobilized  
\$905 million invested in cities  
and towns across the U.S.

**Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. - Ralph Waldo Emerson**

# Tales from the City



## 1,000 repairs

Ms. Winder is a Reservoir Hill resident who cares for two grandchildren and one great-grandchild. When asked what repairs the volunteers from Whiteford, Taylor, and Preston completed on her home, she answered, “1,000 repairs!” While not quite 1,000, the list of improvements to Ms. Winder’s home is long.

Volunteers replaced the rickety steps leading to the basement, installed handrails inside the house, replaced portions of the fence in the backyard, replaced the porch off the second floor, painted rooms throughout the house, planted flowers and trees, and more. The rain didn’t dampen the team’s spirits at all. They dug in and completed the much-needed repairs for Ms. Winder’s home and did so with cheerful spirit all day.



Ms. Winder noted, “God bless the people that volunteer and give money, because there are so many of us that don’t have the funds we need. Lots of people are struggling to make ends meet, and we are grateful for those that come in and help us. Rebuilding Together is truly a blessing. I don’t know what people would do without them.”

## Home improvement company volunteers on more than just one day

Skilled trades people are critical to the work of Rebuilding Together, and so we were delighted when Prestige Services joined the ranks of our volunteers this spring. Prestige is a general home improvement company owned by Deborah and Gary Pearson. As residents of Reservoir Hill, the Pearsons were looking for a way to give back. “We like what is happening in this community and we want to be a part of it. We enjoy helping our neighbors in need,” says Deborah.



On Rebuilding Day, Prestige helped five different teams working in Reservoir Hill. They installed a hot water heater, inspected gas lines, and fixed leaking plumbing. And when the trash trucks left early, the Pearsons pitched in and helped us remove trash. Since then, they have continued to work on projects large and small and shown tremendous responsiveness and flexibility.

Bonnie Bessor, Rebuilding Together executive director, says, “The work Prestige Services did on Rebuilding Day was fantastic. And now, they continue to volunteer their time to address issues of warmth and safety. They are a terrific partner.”

*I will forever be grateful for the improvements that were made and I wish to thank all who were involved.*

- Joyce

## Tales from the County

*I don't know how to explain the joy that Rebuilding Together has brought me. My roof was done, so now there will be no more rain inside my house, just outside where it belongs.*

- Vanessa

### Helping a former volunteer

Mr. Sam Anderson volunteered for many years with Rebuilding Together. Along with a team from his church, Mr. Anderson would help homeowners in need with critical home repairs. "It was hard to get everything done in one day," he said, "But we tried to get to the most important things."

Now, several years later, Mr. Anderson and his wife, residents of Woodlawn, were the homeowners in need. Rebuilding Together replaced the Andersons' deteriorating roof and the GE Capital team, led by Darryl W. Hines, volunteered their time to install new flooring and make a number of safety upgrades to the house. "We act as angels once a year," said Darryl, "and the Andersons were the most gracious homeowners ever." Calling the volunteer team "a great bunch of people," Mr. Anderson said he appreciated all of the work they did on such a dismal, rainy day.

When asked about his Rebuilding Together experience, Mr. Anderson said, "I was glad to help someone else. And now someone has helped me."

### Furniture donation improves family's life

Mary Leith and the IKEA Direct team worked in Woodlawn, helping a single mother with four children. According to Mary, "IKEA Direct loves to work with families with children. This year, our homeowner was a bit leery, and wondered if Rebuilding Together was really legit."

Mary and the team visited the family several times before Rebuilding Day, making plans and doing prep work. Through these visits, they established a great relationship with the whole family.

On Rebuilding Day, the team was like a whirlwind, doing something in almost every room in the house. With the family working with them, they patched and painted, organized and decorated, and made several safety improvements. In addition, the IKEA Direct team donated furniture throughout the house. One of the highlights for the family was a refurbished family room that is now a comfortable gathering spot.

The homeowner was so thankful for the work of the IKEA team that she plans to work with the team next year on Rebuilding Day, helping another homeowner in need.



*The volunteers that were assigned to our home were #1 all the way.*

- Willie





## 2005 Sponsors

### Community Rebuilders

The Abell Foundation  
 Baltimore County Office of  
 Community Conservation  
 St. Paul Travelers  
 American Society of Civil  
 Engineers

### Neighborhood Rebuilders

Betty Lee and Dudley P.  
 Digges Memorial Fund  
 HSBC Beneficial  
 Provident Bank

### Home Rebuilders

Austin Pharmacy  
 Baltimore County Savings  
 Bank  
 Beth Am Synagogue  
 B4UBUILD.COM  
 Constellation Energy

Booz Allen Hamilton  
 Comcast  
 Continental Realty  
 Construction Specifications  
 Institute (Baltimore Chapter)  
 DGS Construction  
 Eastern Savings Bank  
 Enterprise Rent-a-Car  
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 HNI Charitable Foundation  
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 Jim & Patty Rouse Foundation

Ryan Homes  
 Society for Marketing  
 Professional Services  
 Wal-Mart  
 Whiteford, Taylor & Preston

### Friends

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 Charlestown Retirement  
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 Collective Good  
 Countrywide Mortgage  
 Tom Feulner  
 Kate Hogan  
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 Planners  
 Zion Evangelical  
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## Special Thanks To

*We want to especially  
 acknowledge the  
 following individuals and  
 groups who helped on  
 Rebuilding Day and all  
 year-round:*

Mary Beth Allen  
 Baltimore County Department  
 of Highways  
 Baltimore County Department  
 of Recreation & Parks  
 Baltimore City Department of  
 Public Works  
 Tracey Barbour  
 Darren Belechto  
 Phil Borhman  
 Kelly Brennan  
 Ed Burnap  
 Kimberly Cammon  
 Father Tom Composto  
 Brian Cormier  
 Mike Duffy  
 Allyson Evelyn-Gustave  
 Tom Feulner  
 Jim Green  
 Doadre Johnson  
 Jonathan Johnson  
 Delegate Adrienne Jones  
 Michael Kane  
 Senator Delores Kelly  
 Paul Kram  
 Jennifer Lyon



## Rebuilding Together Wish List

Have any of the following items that you are looking to get rid of?  
 Make a tax-deductible donation to Rebuilding Together!

### Items needed:

Color printer • Digital camera • Document scanner • Fax machine  
 Gift cards from Home Depot or Lowes • Storage cabinet • Paper shredder

Delegat Salima Marriott  
 Brian McLean  
 Susan McClure  
 Amy Middleton  
 Councilman Keiffer Mitchell  
 Erin O'Keefe  
 Councilman Ken Oliver  
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 Mike Taylor  
 Juanita Thompson-Garrison  
 Eric Vondy  
 Carmelita Wilson  
 Woodlawn Community  
 Education Development  
 Association  
 Yates Electric, LLC

## 2005 Volunteers House Captains

Rod Anderson  
 Jan Atwood  
 Chris Bacon  
 Drew Bailey  
 Erik Bauer  
 Barry Blumberg  
 Bill Burkhouse  
 Ward Burns  
 Ed Burnap  
 Jim Crocker  
 David Currey  
 Steve Dillman  
 Lynn Egan  
 Mike Falkner  
 Bea Fenzel  
 Tom Feulner  
 Jim Green  
 Bea Gies  
 Ed Gies  
 Jay Harmon  
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 Kevin Hroblak  
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 Joan Jordan  
 Lou Kozlakowski  
 Mike Kyler  
 Beth Larson  
 Mary Leith



Orlando Lilly  
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 Kevin Nelson  
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 Mike Sandman  
 Vito Simone  
 Julie Schmitt  
 Chris Smith  
 Liz Stone  
 Bill Taylor  
 Marikate Taylor  
 Larry Trainor  
 Eric Vondy  
 Michelle Wright  
 Bruce Zimmerman

## Volunteer Teams

American Institute of  
 Architects  
 Baltimore City Police  
 Baltimore County Department  
 of Aging  
 Baltimore Tall Club  
 Catholic Alumni  
 CBIZ – HDR Benefit Advisors  
 Christopher Place  
 Employment Academy  
 Community College of  
 Baltimore County at  
 Catonsville  
 Deutsche Bank  
 Garrison Forest School  
 Hereford United Methodist  
 Church  
 IKEA Direct  
 J-Serve 2005



Maryland Rebels  
 Reisterstown  
 United Methodist  
 Church  
 UPS  
 Woodlawn High  
 School  
 Zeta Phi Beta  
 Zion Evangelical  
 Lutheran U.C.C.

# Rebuilding Together branches out in the fall

**Last fall** we worked with Wal-Mart and the American Society of Civil Engineers on two projects – our first major projects outside of Rebuilding Day. Read on for the stories.

## Wal-Mart in Colgate

National retailer Wal-Mart kicked off a partnership with Rebuilding Together affiliates across the country. As part of this effort, they sponsored a Rebuilding Together workday on September 18. The Wal-Mart project took place in Colgate, the Dundalk neighborhood we worked in on Rebuilding Days 2003 and 2004. A single mom taking care of three children and working full time had a home in great need of repair. Employees from several area Wal-Mart stores joined in to help make critical repairs to her home, focusing on keeping the family safe and dry. Many thanks to Paul Kram, manager of the Dundalk Wal-Mart, and our counsel to the board, Lou Kozlakowski, for serving as co-house captains.

## On to Southwest Baltimore!

Baltimore was the host city for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2004 Annual Conference. As they have done in other cities in years past, the engineers wanted to close out their conference weekend with a service project that would leave a lasting impact on the community.

The Southwest Senior Center, located in the basement of an old church, needed significant safety and security updates, a new kitchen floor, an upgrade to their bathrooms, lighting improvements, an update to their computer lab, and many cosmetic improvements. We quickly brought veteran house captains Ed Burnap and Jim Green on board to help us develop the scope of work and serve as project leaders. After four months of planning and hard work, fifty civil engineers descended on the Senior Center ready to work on Sunday, October 24, 2004. It is just amazing the amount of repairs and improvements they were able to accomplish in one day—close to \$20,000 worth of work! At the end of the day, the members and staff of the center were thrilled. Their “second home” is now safer and more accessible and just more pleasant to go to every morning.

In addition to the project sponsorship from ASCE, funding for this project was provided by the U.S. Administration on Aging and the HNI Charitable Foundation.

## WHY I VOLUNTEER

“Volunteering is such a humbling experience,” declares Bea Gies, house captain for the Reisterstown United Methodist Church, “We often complain about what we have, but when we see others who truly are doing without, it grounds us.”

Although Bea’s church worked on a Rebuilding Together community project several years ago, this year was the first time they repaired a house. The team took on a challenging one, fixing leaks, replacing rotted stairs, fixing floors, and lots and lots of painting. The team also found companies willing to donate siding and downspouts and provide all of the labor for installation.

The team developed a great relationship with the family. “Of course our work impacts their lives, but they impact our lives as well,” says Bea, who summed up her philosophy on volunteering by explaining, “Lots of people need help. I think that is why we are here – to help one another.”

*It is people like you that make the world a better place.*

- Velma



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Bonnie Bessor

## From our Executive Director

In last year's newsletter, I wrote that my first few months with Rebuilding Together had been a whirlwind experience. Well, I've got a year under my belt now and the whirlwind hasn't stopped! There have been so many exciting things that have happened this year and I have met so many amazing, generous, and hardworking people.

One of the most exciting developments over the past year has been the formation of our new Program Committee. We called this committee together to assist us with our program design and our communications with homeowners and volunteers. The committee members are Tom Feulner, Eric Vondy, and Susan McClure, all long-time volunteers. They have helped us evaluate how we can improve both our homeowner application process and our home inspection systems. In the future they will continue to work on new ideas for our programs and make periodic recommendations to the board of directors.

The program committee has also been responsible for the evolution of our Year-

Round Initiative. As we told you last year, we felt it was important to more quickly address those repairs that just can't wait until April, or didn't get done in April and are critical to the well-being of the homeowner. We are still focusing on our target neighborhoods, Woodlawn and Reservoir Hill, for these repairs. This year, we repaired a dangerous hole in an elderly man's front porch and replaced a cracked sewer line that could present a health hazard to the homeowner as well as her neighbors.

In addition, we partnered with two new sponsors, Wal-Mart and the American Society of Civil Engineers to complete two large-scale fall projects (see page 6). We need volunteers to work on our year round projects. These projects are different from Rebuilding Day, taking less time and requiring fewer workers. However, the value of the repair to the homeowner is the same—priceless! We are planning a workday on October 8 this year. Please call or e-mail me if you are interested in participating.

And last but not least, if you can't give any more volunteer time, please consider a monetary donation to help support the Year-Round Initiative.

Thank you for helping to keep homeowners warmer, safer and drier throughout the year!

*Bonnie Bessor*  
Executive Director



## Rebuilding Together Baltimore Mission Statement

To preserve and revitalize homes and communities in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, Maryland. We work to assure that low-income homeowners, particularly those who are elderly,

disabled, and families with children live with greater independence in warmer, safer, and drier homes. Our goal is to make a sustainable impact in partnership with the community.

## Meet a homeowner

Ms. Fisher has been a resident of Reservoir Hill for about 30 years and raises a young grandson. The two have shared a home since the young man's mother was killed in a car accident ten years ago. Their home is well-cared for, but in need of basic repairs. Upgrades to the kitchen, basement, and bedrooms were completed by the Society for Marketing Professional Services. House captain Nichole McGuire stated, "Ms. Fisher has been a joy to work for and has the patience of a saint." Says Ms. Fisher: "The team tried very hard to help us out and was so nice. I'm very grateful for the work they did."

Ms. Fisher is just one of many residents in Reservoir Hill who are facing increasing property taxes due to quickly escalating property values. While the "renaissance" in Reservoir Hill is benefiting many residents, Rebuilding Together tries to help those who are being left out of the revitalization – those residents unable to keep up with home maintenance and repairs.



### SAVE THE DATE

Fall Workday

October 8, 2005

Rebuilding Day

April 29, 2006

Join Us On The Web -

[www.RebuildingTogetherBaltimore.org](http://www.RebuildingTogetherBaltimore.org)

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using vegetable based ink



Interested? Give us a call!

- Committee work
- Office assistance
- House inspections
- Home repairs

We need volunteers year-round for:

Want to help on more than just one day?

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