

Rebuilding Together of Richmond, formerly known as Christmas in April, is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving affordable housing and revitalizing neighborhoods in the City of Richmond. Since 1993, volunteers with Rebuilding Together have been improving the lives of low income, disabled, and elderly homeowners by renovating their houses. Each year, Rebuilding Together volunteers and sponsors make improvements on an average of 50 houses during an intense one-day effort that leaves homeowners living in warm, safe, and dry conditions.

The elderly low income population continues to grow, as do the challenges associated with meeting their needs for adequate and safe housing. Often all but the simplest and cheapest home repairs are outside of the financial reach of low income senior citizens. Rebuilding Together offers a unique opportunity for able-bodied people to join together with their friends, colleagues, social group or civic group to participate in a day of helping others. The generous volunteers who work through Rebuilding Together make changes and repairs to homes running the gambit from improved lighting to replacing entire baths and kitchens. These efforts serve to transform or even save the lives of people who cannot afford or physically make the repairs for themselves. Volunteers and organizations from Richmond's corporate and civic community are now preparing for the 17th annual event of home repair and home modifications commonly known as Rebuilding Together's National Rebuilding Day. The project will take place in Green Park and Highland View, two of Richmond's working class Northside communities. On Saturday, April 25, 2009, over 1,500 volunteers of all skill levels will work together in a one day "blitz" to make repairs and modifications that are needed to 50 homes so that their owners can live safely with independence and dignity.

In addition to repairs that keep the elderly warm and dry in their homes, the independence and safety of home residents are serious concerns for Rebuilding Together. Since falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among individuals who are over 65, and since 28% of the American population 65 years and older live alone, Rebuilding Together is working to raise awareness and prevent falls. Rebuilding Together of Richmond is engaged in promoting and educating seniors and those persons caring for seniors about the benefits of home modifications. Many elderly people live in older structures that are deteriorating to the point that they are hazardous, and contribute to falls and injuries. Installing grab bars in a bath or handrails on stairs, and putting in lights to brighten hallways are a great help in keeping seniors safe in their own homes.

Preservation of Richmond's neighborhoods is essential to stabilizing our communities. Rebuilding Together affiliates across the country work tirelessly to positively impact this issue through home rehabilitation and home modification projects. Volunteers and sponsors reaching out to improve living conditions for elderly low income homeowners make the program work. **Every dollar we raise is leveraged four times through in kind donations and volunteer labor.** This project provides opportunity for skilled labor and those who come with a willing heart to participate. For more information about how you can join in the National Rebuilding Day event with Rebuilding Together of Richmond on Saturday, April 25, 2009, visit www.rebuildingtogetherrichmond.org.