Rebuilding Together DC · Alexandria

The Toolbox

WINTER 2018

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Thanks to Our Recent Project Day Partners!

With the help of volunteers and funders, we create thriving neighborhoods for our vulnerable populations by revitalizing community spaces, enhancing schools, and creating and maintaining affordable housing. Since 1986, more than 28,000 volunteers have worked on 2,200+ projects, investing $8.8 million worth of in-kind value into Alexandria.

Our staff and teams of volunteers stayed busy with multiple projects this fall. Here are just a few of the many projects our volunteers worked on:

- Installing a circular bench, adding plants and beautiful landscaping, assembling a grill, and more at the new **Commonwealth Avenue park** – located at the high-profile intersection of Commonwealth and Reed Avenue
- Caulking and installing insulation and weather stripping as part of **Energize Alexandria**, our annual event assisting low-income homeowners with weatherization and energy efficient improvements
- Making much-needed repairs to the **outdoor learning space** at the Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology
- Helping a **local veteran** by clearing vines, pruning trees, repairing a wooden gate, removing debris, installing a new ceiling fan and an awning, replacing lightbulbs, replacing a vanity faucet, and installing a wheelchair ramp

Thanks to these partners for all of their help on these projects and more this fall:

- Fannie Mae
- Ernst & Young
- National Tax Lien Association
- AECOM
- International Sign Association
- Sears

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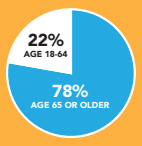
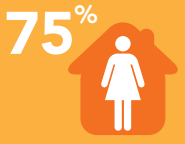
HOMEOWNERS SERVED IN FY18

Our clients have **1.7** people living at home, with a household income of just **$25,195**.

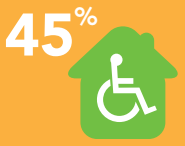
64% of clients are extremely low income, **21%** very low income, **14%** low income.



78% of clients are age 65 or older, **22%** 18-64.



A female heads **75%** of homes served by us.



45% of our clients state that they are disabled.

Over **28,000** volunteers have worked on more than **2,200** projects since 1986.

Market value to date of in-kind contributions given to the community exceed **$8.77 million**.

JOIN US!

Get involved and join our *Development committee* or our skilled *Mod Squad* repair team! Call or email us today for more information! **703.836.1021**

WELCOME OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Ms. Gina West is the Executive Manager of Community Investment & Engagement at Fannie Mae. In this role, she utilizes her 20+ years of experience in nonprofit and corporate philanthropy to lead employee volunteerism and giving, disaster relief, and strategic nonprofit relationship management for the company. Ms. West is a native Washingtonian and holds both an undergraduate and graduate degree from Howard University.

FROM THE DESK OF *Katharine*

As we bring 2018 to a close, I am so proud of all the individuals and families we've been able to help—from over 100 Alexandria households to 1,300 students at William Ramsay and Cora Kelly to the thousands of residents who can enjoy the park and garden we built in Hume Springs.

As we continue to serve Alexandria in 2019, we will also provide our programs to the many in-need families in the District of Columbia, where over 28,000 low-income homeowners reside. We have spent the past six months in DC building relationships and strong referral systems, much like we have in Alexandria, with the Office on Aging, Department of Housing and Community Development, the Mayor's office and Council members, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, other nonprofits serving our constituents, and so many more!

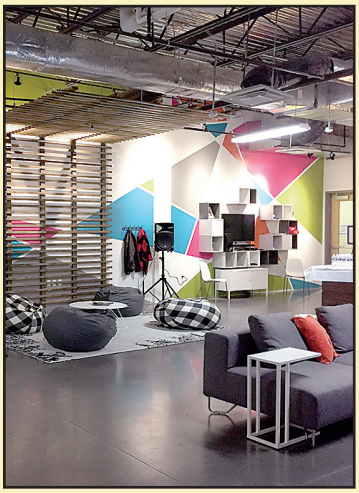
We have even begun completing home visits in DC but do not anticipate assigning volunteer project days until 2019. Our first client visit was at a home that housed three generations of family members!

Thank you for your continued support as we expand our horizons to serve low-income individuals, families and their neighborhoods in Alexandria and DC!

Our Programs

Our **Safe and Healthy Home** program focuses on stabilizing 25 items that the National Center for Healthy Housing found to drastically improve living conditions for a home's residents, with a particular focus on low-income persons living in older and/or substandard housing who are disproportionately affected by home hazards. Volunteers work throughout the year on home safety, accessibility modifications, and fire safety prevention improvements. Based upon interviews with clients from 2018, short term outcomes showed that 95% of homeowners are satisfied with living in their home and the quality of repairs made by our volunteers, 92% saw an increase in the health and safety of their homes and 77% stated they are more easily able to engage in activities of daily living.

Our **Community Strong program** provides improvements to a variety of common spaces used by thousands of residents. From schools and community parks, to senior centers and homeless shelters, we partner with City departments to upgrade or renovate these critical community resources that serve our vulnerable populations. Because of the 50+ Community Strong projects we've completed, children now have safe areas to play, neighbors have community gardens to grow their own food, parents have social connection spaces, seniors have safe facilities to attend, and whole neighborhoods have been revitalized.



A **Home of Your Own** provides first-time, low- and moderate-income buyers with an opportunity to become homeowners. The homes are rehabbed by our volunteers and discounted skilled trades, then sold (at no profit) to an income-qualifying home buyer with subsidized funding (through our partnership with the Office of Housing). Based on four recent acquisitions, buyers were able to decrease their housing costs by $350/month (rent vs. ownership).

BEFORE

AFTER

All in the Family

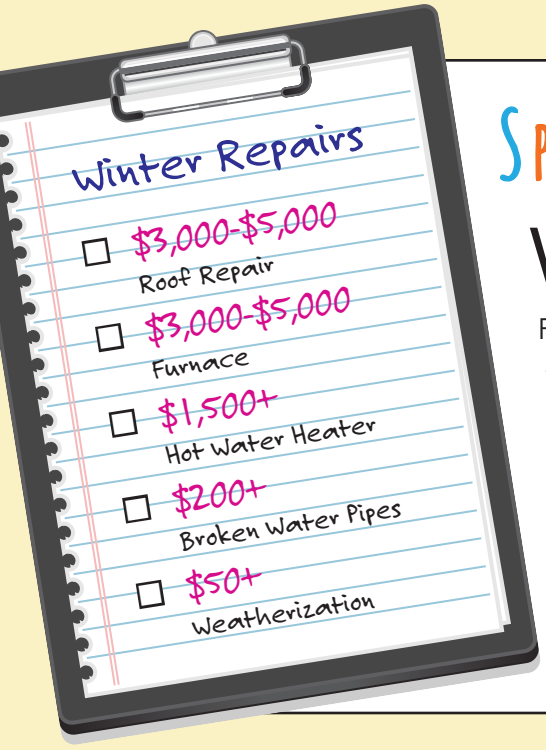
In 1957, Will's parents gave each of their sons a plot of land on North Quaker Lane on which to build a home. "I think we only had twenty-five dollars but we got a house built somehow," remembers Will's widow, Amy.

In the fields surrounding their new home, Will would pull the neighborhood kids around on sleds by the tractor he had owned at their previous home in Farmville, Virginia. The children would also "go across the way and sled on the hill and ice-skate on a nearby frozen pond." In the warm months, kids would play kick ball and jump rope together while neighborhood parents watched and caught up on each other's lives.

For many years, the community would throw Halloween block parties—with bands and cookouts and dancing contests! All the neighbors enjoyed this tradition. "You didn't have a lot of money and you didn't have a lot of things, but you were happy," recalls Amy.

Will's brothers and parents also lived in the same community and his mother was known as the "neighborhood mom." Amy fondly remembers her mother-in-law often coming over to cook dinner for the family—cooking was not on Amy's list of "most favorite things to do," so after work she would come home and play with the children, clean up the house, and happily clean up dishes from a home-cooked meal made by her in-law.

Amy, looking around her home, has "so many wonderful memories in this happy place." Rebuilding Together's volunteers are happy to help maintain her home so she can safely live there, building more memories.



Special Winter Request

With winter weather ahead, your gift for in-need homeowners would be much appreciated! From expensive roof repairs and furnaces ($3,000-$5,000) to hot water heaters ($1,500) and unexpected broken water pipes ($200 plus) to weatherization that saves on utility bills ($50 plus), all gifts will help. Keep in mind that you can also make recurring gifts monthly on our website if it is more convenient. We promise to spend wisely to maximize your contribution. *Thank you for your thoughtful and caring donation.*

Raise a Roof

A record turnout on a rainy evening helped Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria raise more than $72,000 at Raise a Roof in September! Thanks to all who joined Rebuilding Together at the Old Dominion Boat Club to enjoy the specialty drink recipe by Chadwicks on the Strand, dessert donated by Alexandria Cupcake, Cornhole competition, live music, silent auction, and raffle for an electric bike donated by Pedego Alexandria – and of course fabulous Meggrolls by Meg herself!

We are so appreciative of your support, and on the headstart you've given us to our year-end financial and project goals – to be even better positioned to serve Alexandria and DC, make more home repairs, renovate community spaces, and continue our work to assist low-income homeowners and families in our region.

Congratulations to our 2018 Honorees: Alberto Chalmeta (Volunteer of the Year), Mechanical Contractors Association of Metro Washington (New Team of the Year), and Cooper Carry and Little Diversified Architectural Consulting (Co-Partners of the Year).

Congratulations to our winners: Dean Genberg of Focus Data Solutions (week-long vacation at the Cliffhanger house in the Virgin Islands), Jen Walker of McEnearney Associates (electric bike), and Bruce Carr and Mike Nguyen of Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota (cornhole tournament).

A VERY special shout-out to our sponsors!

See You Next Year!

Thank you to our
individual sponsors:

Adron & Becky Krekeler
Stephen Ramey & Kathleen Burns
Ousman & Kathleen Jobe
Barry & Margaret Stauffer
James & Catherine Kelley
Jim & Jane Antonovich
Michael & Alexandra Coughlin
Don & Tricia Holley
Eric & Sheila Weiss

Thank you to our
Roof Raiser sponsors:

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Alexandria Cupcake
Kositzka, Wicks & Company
Pedego Alexandria
Saint James United Methodist Church
Chadwicks on the Strand

Rebuilding Together
DC · Alexandria

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REPAIRING HOMES.
REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES.
REBUILDING LIVES.

NATIONAL REBUILDING DAY

Mark your calendar! On Saturday, April 27, 2019, volunteers from more than 130 Rebuilding Together affiliates across the country will spend the day making repairs to thousands of homes and community spaces as part of National Rebuilding Day—the organization's hallmark event.

In Alexandria and Washington, DC, over 800 volunteers will be joining us to work on more than 50 houses.

Visit our website for a sponsorship form:

www.RebuildingTogetherDCA.org
or call us for more information.
703.836.1021

April 27, 2019
National Rebuilding Day

Holiday Shopping

Smile.Amazon.com is a gift that keeps giving! If you are holiday shopping on Amazon.com, please use AmazonSmile and choose *Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria* so that a percent of your purchase will be donated to us, at no extra charge to you! Thank you for your support!

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