



For Immediate Release
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Rebuilding Together Celebrates Rehabilitation of 100,000 Homes *Effort ensures safe and decent housing in communities across the nation*

Washington, D.C. – October 12, 2006 – Rebuilding Together (RT), the nation’s largest volunteer-based provider of home-repair services, is marking the rehabilitation of its 100,000th house with a six-month-plus celebration that highlights rebuilding events in cities and communities throughout America.

The “100,000th House Celebration,” which involves the participation of RT affiliates across the nation, will kick off Oct. 14 with the rebuilding of a house in the nation’s capital during the week of RT’s national conference and will culminate with media events across the country on National Rebuilding Day, April 28, 2007. The goal is to focus attention on the work done by more than 3 million volunteers and the delivery of approximately \$1 billion in home rehabilitation services since RT’s inception 18 years ago.

In addition to the Washington, DC, 100,000th House Celebration kick-off, similar RT affiliate events will take place in several major cities and numerous smaller communities across the nation. Major cities that have upcoming events scheduled include Oakland, CA (Oct. 14), Dallas (Nov. 11), Phoenix (Oct. 28, Nov. 11), New Orleans (Nov. 7-14) and San Francisco (Nov. 14). Meanwhile, Minneapolis-St. Paul and St. Louis have plans for celebrations in Spring 2007. *For details and event updates, see the [Celebrating the 100,000th House RT Affiliate Events Schedule](#).*

“Rebuilding Together is proud to be marking this major milestone in the organization’s history,” said Rebuilding Together’s new president and CEO, Gary A. Officer. “And the 100,000th House Celebration is our way of thanking the thousands of supporters and volunteers – ranging from individuals to corporate, association, faith-based, labor, civic and foundation-based organizations – who have come together to deliver warmth, safety and independence to persons in need in neighborhoods across the United States.”

In addition to celebrating RT’s rich history of revitalizing houses and communities, the 100,000th House Celebration will focus on two of RT’s newest initiatives: the Serving Those Who Serve Program, which was launched in September 2005 and is funded through a two-year, \$1 million grant from Countrywide Financial Corp.; and “Rebuild 1000,” which, with a two-year, \$1.5 million grant from Countrywide, is dedicated to rebuilding houses in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast area that were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Further highlighted during the celebration will be RT’s home modifications program, which, through grants from the Administration on Aging and AARP, is geared toward preventing falls and injuries among seniors; and RT’s Energy Efficient Homes Initiative, which aims to reduce cost and consumption of energy by sealing and replacing doors and windows, adding insulation and repairing or replacing water heaters.

“As we mark the occasion of having rehabbed 100,000 houses, it is Rebuilding Together’s hope that more sponsors and volunteers will join us in our mission,” said Officer, who pointed to “Yard by Yard,” a recently introduced campaign in which NFL rookie star and New Orleans Saints football player Reggie Bush and Diet Pepsi have teamed up with RT to help the people of New Orleans rebuild. (For details, see www.yardbyyard.com.)

More...

Rebuilding Together 100,000th House Celebration/Page 2...

“With more than 24 million low-income homeowners and others in need in communities across America, we’re giving voice to the heart in many ways – as we fix up houses affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as we reach out to help injured veterans returning from Iraq, and as we help our own elderly and disabled neighbors, as well as families with children,” said Officer. “And as we rebuild homes, we rebuild lives.”

For additional information regarding Rebuilding Together and how to get involved in, sponsor or donate funding to a local rebuild event, see www.rebuildingtogether.org.

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About Rebuilding Together

Rebuilding Together is America's largest volunteer-based organization bringing volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of homeowners in need. The non-profit has 240 affiliates across the country, mobilizes approximately 275,000 volunteers, and renovates nearly 10,000 homes per year. For more information on Rebuilding Together, call 1-800-REHAB-9 or see www.rebuildingtogether.org.

Celebrating the 100,000th House!
Rebuilding Together (RT) Affiliate Events Schedule

Following (in chronological order) are among the events planned by major-city RT affiliates:

- **Washington, DC** – The home of cancer survivors Elio and Edna Gasperetti will be rehabilitated on **Oct. 14** with funding from Countrywide Financial Corp. and elbow grease from Bolling Air Force Base volunteers and others. The home is located at 1903 Kearney St, NE, Washington, DC (near Capitol Hill) and requires accessibility modifications, intensive plumbing work and interior repairs. **This event coincides with the final day of RT's national conference, which is being held in Crystal City, VA, Oct. 11-14.** (For project details, contact Janice Stango at 202-965-2824 or janstango@rebuildingtogetherdc.org.)
- **Oakland, CA** – RT Oakland will be conducting a Block Building event in the Sobrante Park neighborhood in East Oakland on **Oct. 14**, where over 800 volunteers will be renovating nine homes and two community facilities. The event will be staged at Community Reformed Church, 457 Capistrano Dr. (For details, contact John Caner at 510-625-0316 or john@rtoakland.org.)
- **Phoenix, AZ** – On **Oct. 28**, RT's Phoenix affiliate will host its 2006 Rock & Roll Paint-A-Thon, sponsored by Countrywide, Wells Fargo and Freescale Semiconductor. This event involves 4,000 volunteer working on 150 projects in one day. Also, on **Nov. 11**, the affiliate will work on a project funded by Honeywell Corp. at a local Veteran's Hospital. Honeywell Aerospace CEO Rob Gillette, Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon and Genevieve Gorder from the television show *Trading Spaces* are expected to attend. (For details, contact Dennis Flynn at (480) 774-0237 or (602) 615-5285 (mobile), or see www.rebuildingtogetherphx.org.)
- **Dallas, TX** – On **Nov. 11**, RT's Dallas affiliate will repair the home of an elderly woman who is raising her two young nephews; labor is being provided by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry and funding for the house rebuild will come from Countrywide Financial Corp., Reliant Energy Corp., and The City of Dallas' People Helping People Program. In addition, the alumni association of the National Football League (NFL) will be sending former Dallas Cowboys players to work on the house. (For details, contact Bryce Sevilla at 972-636-8039.)
- **Louisiana, LA** – RT, in conjunction with up to 500 volunteers attending the National Association of Realtors national conference, will be working on several New Orleans houses damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita during the week of **Nov. 7-14**; the work will be funded by RT sponsor, Countrywide Financial Corp. In addition, RT will be working with its Acadiana (Lafayette), LA, affiliate, **Nov. 5-12**. (For details, contact Cindy Price at 202-483-3095 or Sarah Shogren onsite at 949-500-0554 – cell onsite.)
- **San Francisco, CA** – A **Nov. 14** event is planned with major national home builder, Lennar BVHP, LLP. (For details, contact Steven Zapata Jr. at (415) 905-1611, ext. 207 or see www.RebuildingTogetherSF.org.)
- **St. Louis, MO** – RT St. Louis will celebrate the rehabilitation of the affiliate's 1,000th house in **early 2007** by repairing the home of a low-income, disabled woman who has sustained burns to over 80 percent of her body. In partnership with long-term keystone sponsor Emerson, the St. Louis chapter's board of directors, staff and volunteers will join together "to make a difference in the life of one of our neighbors."

In addition, various other RT affiliates across the nation – including **Northwest Arkansas** (Nov. 18), **Montgomery Co., Md.** (Nov. 11), **Petersburg, VA** (Nov. 17) and **Lynchburg, VA** – are planning upcoming local events, and additional affiliates are expected to introduce projects as the celebration progresses.

For details, newly added events and project updates, call Cindy Price at 202-483-9083, ext. 120, or see the 100,000th House Celebration section of RT's Web site at www.rebuildingtogether.org.