Rebuilding Together Celebrates 16-Year Partnership With Meredith Corporation

Each year, Meredith Corporation participates in a fall workday. This year marks the 16th year Meredith Corporation has partnered with Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines to improve the community.

On October 12, 2017, over 200 volunteers from Meredith Corporation and Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) students and Boys & Girls Clubs joined forces with Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines and Des Moines Parks and Recreation to revitalize East Des Moines community.

Volunteer teams got started early that morning. First Rebuilding Together has joined Healthy Homes Des Moines.

Healthy Homes Des Moines (HHDSM) is a referral-based program for children suffering from acute asthmatic symptoms causing repeated trips to the emergency room or doctor. Through HHDSM, families will receive education, home supplies and even home repairs to address asthma triggers. Throughout the process, families will receive tailored health education to self-manage asthma and maintain a healthy home. To qualify the family must reside within the Des Moines city limits, qualify as low income and the child must have a diagnosis of asthma.

How do housing conditions cause asthma?
stop was at Redhead park. Meredith volunteers repainted the star on the basketball court that was originally done during Meredith’s workday last year. Redhead park, originally gifted to the City of Des Moines in 1866 by Wesley Redhead now has a circus theme. The star on the blacktop ties into the circus theme and stands as a landmark to the neighborhood residents.

The biggest project of the day was at Stewart Park Square. With the help of Boys & Girls Club volunteers, this three-day project was completed in one day. The volunteer teams installed new playground equipment, planted trees, and updated the streetscape. Updates to Stewart Park Square are valued at over $80,000. Read more here.

Over at East High School, Meredith volunteers rolled up their sleeves and got dirty landscaping the front of the school and the courtyard. Significant updates to the food pantry and sewing lab were made to help improve student programs. Volunteers also landscaped the front entrance to the Walker Building and added two new benches.

In addition to the school facilities and parks, Meredith Corporation selected five families on the east side to receive major renovations during the annual fall workday. Meredith employees spent the day preparing hot meals for the five families and Rebuilding Together staff delivered them to their homes at the end of the day.

Common household substances including mold, dust, chemicals, and pests can trigger an attack. Children with developing lungs are particularly vulnerable to experiencing asthma symptoms. Healthy Homes Des Moines will remediate household asthma triggers and repair the source of the problem in the home, such as leaky plumbing and old carpet.

We are excited to be in this collaboration with Unity Point Health, Mercy Medical Center, Broadlawns Medical Center, Visiting Nurse Services, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Polk County Health Department, Polk County Public Works, Des Moines Public Schools, Telligen, Iowa Legal Aid, United Way, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, Children Family Policy Center and Trilix. The City of Des Moines, Viva East Bank.

Healthy Homes Des Moines is funded in part by BUILD Health Challenge, which supports community collaborations using non-clinical approaches that give everyone a fair chance to be healthy. The BUILD Health Challenge is an effort founded by The Advisory Board Company, the de Beaumont Foundation, the Colorado Health Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Welcome Denise Colbrook

We would like to welcome Denise to Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines.
Wells Fargo Repairs Aging Home of Former Employee

It’s rare to find someone who has lived in their home all their life! Sixty-five years ago, Dorothy Kelly brought her daughter Ilona home from the hospital to their house on SW 2nd Street. Now, at the age of 101, Dorothy and Ilona still live together in the same home taking care of each other. They are on a fixed income with only enough to pay for bills and groceries. Ilona and her mother reached out to Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines because they desperately wanted to relieve some of their worry and stress over getting the much-needed repair done to the aging home. Continue reading...

Wells Fargo Volunteers Spent the Day Helping a Des Moines Resident in Need

On September 29, Wells Fargo volunteers went out to Connie Scott’s home at NE 48th Place in Des Moines to help with repairs to an existing wheelchair ramp, do yard work, and plant new shrubbery around the home where weeds used to grow. The work done was needed to help maintain the property for years to come. Continue reading...

Bringing Life Back Into an Aging Home

On September 22, Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines and Wells Fargo volunteers completed repairs that brought life back to an aging home on the south side of Des Moines. Continue Reading....
**Critical Home Repairs for Three Loyal Customers of Their SW 9th Branch**

On September 20, Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines and Iowa State Bank volunteers participated in their third-annual corporate workday. The volunteers completed critical home repairs to help three homeowners on the south-west side of Des Moines who are also longtime customers of Iowa State Bank’s branch on SW 9th and Army Post Rd. [Continue reading...](#)

---

**Des Moines Area Association of REALTORS® Improve the Health and Safety of a Merle Hay Home**

On September 27, Des Moines Area Association of REALTORS® volunteers made several repairs and upgrades that significantly improved the health and safety of home located near Merle Hay Mall. [Continue reading...](#)

---

**Another Fun Night At Art Over Wine**

Over 100 people from the Greater Des Moines community joined us for our annual Art Over Wine fundraiser on September 19 at Jasper Winery. Attendees enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and...
wine while browsing a silent auction featuring fine art items created by more than 25 Central Iowa artisans. A live string quartet from Roosevelt High School played at the event.

Local art paired with local flavors spoke to Rebuilding Together’s community-based mission, one that will continue on thanks to the success of the event. Thank you to all who helped us celebrate another year of keeping homeowners safe, warm and dry, especially our sponsors: Meredith Corporation, MidAmerican Energy, Knapp Properties, Inc., Prairie Meadows, Pam & Harry Bookey, Susan & Carl Voss, Van Meter, Hubbell Realty, Simonson & Associates Architects, The Iowa Clinic, Farmers Insurance, and Brown Winick Attorneys at Law.

See if you can find yourself in our event album [here](#)!  

---

**Donate to Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines this charitable holiday season.**

$10 = Box of nails
$35 = Smoke Detector
$50 = Low Flow Toilet

$75 = Repair Window
$100 = Kitchen Sink
$150 = Front Door

$500 = Siding
$750 = Roof Shingles
$1000 = Flooring

---

**For 22 years, Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines has provided repairs and renovations that allow our neighbors to stay safe and healthy in their homes. Help us do more in our community.**

Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines is participating in the year’s largest international day of giving back: Giving Tuesday!

Following the popularity of shopping events, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, November 28th marks the holiday Giving Tuesday and kicks off the charitable giving holiday season.

**Why are we doing this and why Rebuilding Together?**

Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines is part of a national network of more than 140 affiliates around the country committed to providing a safe and healthy home for all of our neighbors. From 1995 through 2016, Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines completed more than 3,000 home projects across our community with the help of more than 1,000 volunteers each year. Many of the homeowners we help are families living at or below the federal poverty line. Help us do more in our community!
While we have accomplished much, the need is great. Swelling home maintenance costs are driving residents and families away from communities where they have lived for generations. Rapidly aging housing stock is ill-equipped to accommodate the needs of an aging population. Veterans are returning home from decade-long conflicts, many with service-connected disabilities, to a severe lack of affordable housing that can accommodate their needs. Children growing up in low-income communities are living in antiquated housing, being exposed to dangerous toxins that adversely affect their health and educational attainment over the course of their lifetimes.

Your general Giving Tuesday donation will go a long way as we restore hope and help improve the lives of our neighbors in need by rebuilding homes and strengthening our communities.

Support our community on November 28 and make a donation to help meet our goal of $2,500.

If you have any questions about other ways to get involved, please contact Kimberly Hansen at khansen@rebuildingdm.org.

Thank you for your generosity this holiday season!

Stay in touch!