Shazam Network and Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines Team Up to Repair the Homes of Two Des Moines Residents

Shazam Network, a long standing Corporate partner of Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines teams up for another annual work day making critical home repairs possible for low-income families.

Nearly thirty-five volunteers from Shazam Network including their CEO Paul Walz joined Rebuilding Together on July 13 and 14 to make major repairs to the home of two Des Moines residents.

“We have a committee at Shazam that organizes different activities for our employees outside of the office. One of the activities our employees look forward to each year is our work day with Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines. The employees enjoy getting involved in the community together while making a positive impact on those in need.” says Jay Lohmann, House Captain.

Congrats and Farewell Donnie Whisenand

One of Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines’ plumbing contractors is retiring and moving out of state. Donnie Whisenand has been providing his services to Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines for more than 10 years. His service has always been reliable and we’ve become
Ida Rush has lived in her 100-year-old home on Onawa St. for 50 years. The home was in need of several critical repairs to allow Ida to be more mobile in her wheelchair. Ida is a loyal patron of the Polk County meal site. Every day at around 9:30 am the DART bus pulls up to the curb in front of her home and the driver lowers the ramp to wheel Ida in. “It’s been very difficult getting to and from the bus. My son-in-law and daughter who live just 2 houses down come over to push me up the gravel rock driveway every day. By having the work completed, I will be much safer and feel like I can do it on my own,” Ida said.

Donnie will certainly be missed by the staff and several of our regular clients. He has a heart of gold that anyone who has a chance to talk with him can clearly see.

"I've seen a lot," says Donnie. "During one particular house visit the homeowner was eating cat food. I went home and emptied out all my cupboards and brought boxes of food back to her. I know I didn't have to, but after seeing her situation, I couldn't help it."

It's actions like that, that make Donnie such a gem to work with. We will miss you very much Donnie. Enjoy a drink on the beach for your friends back in Iowa.
bus. Ida will no longer have to be pushed uphill, over gravel rock, and/or grass to get to the bus. In addition to the expanded patio and sidewalk, the team of volunteers from Shazam did several other repairs to the home such as replacing the front and storm door, gutters, fascia, trim, paint, and new gravel for the driveway.

Just a few miles away from Ida’s home another group of Shazam volunteers worked on Jane Young’s home. Jane, who just celebrated her 85th birthday in June and has lived in her home on E. Tiffin for 58 years, reflects on the memories of raising her children and family gatherings held at the home. “Every holiday the entire family gathers here, so it’s important to make it a safe place they can come to visit.”

We would like to welcome Mackenzie to Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines. Mackenzie is an AmeriCorps student who has been selected to participate in our National AmeriCorps program where members serve 11 months at Rebuilding Together affiliates. She will have the opportunity to serve homeowners and communities in a variety of roles. Members help improve the lives of low-income homeowners through hands-on home repairs and community outreach while earning an education award to help with educational expenses. Mackenzie is a 2016 Iowa State graduate with a degree in Sociology.

Jane reached out to Rebuilding Together when she could no longer do the work herself. “After

Thank you Brittany Gronewold

It's been another busy and productive summer here at Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines and we can't end the summer without giving a big thanks to our office assistant,
overcoming cancer and a serious heart attack nearly 25 years ago, I knew I needed to do something about my health so I started exercising every day and eating right,” Jane said. “It saddens me that I can’t do as much because of my back pain.”

Brittany Gronewold. Brittany has been with us since 2015 helping out during the summer when she’s on break from her construction engineering studies at Iowa State University. She is also an intern at Waidinger and is pursuing a career there in the future. We look forward to having Brittany back in the Fall.

Volunteers from Roosevelt High School in Des Moines came out on July 17th to help maintain a Des Moines resident’s homeowner insurance policy through a home repair project.

To stay active Jane volunteers her time with Staves United Methodist church making regular home visits to the members and shut ins. “I have been blessed in abundance,” says Jane. “It makes me happy to be able to bring joy to others in return.” Jane received a new storm door on the front of the home, new gutters, fascia, siding, and paint on the garage, front security light, and landscaping.

Ida and Jane are good examples of the homeowners Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines helps annually. With the support from Corporate partnerships, like Shazam Network, Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines can help more homeowners in similar situations get the repairs necessary to improve the health and safety of their homes. If you’re interested in learning how your corporation can get involved, contact us today.

On August 4, volunteers from Blue Compass took the afternoon off from the office and got dirty outside at their Annual Corporate Give Back Day.
Congratulations Kimberly Hansen

Congratulations to our Executive Director, Kimberly Hansen on 8 years of service with Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines. Under your leadership, we have helped over 3,000 homeowners in need throughout Greater Des Moines. Thank you for your dedication to making an impact on the lives of homeowners in need across our community.

National Safe At Home Week
August 21-25, 2017
Next week is National Safe at Home Week!

About 1.2 million people get injured at home each year. This is a good time for all of us to become more aware of the dangers lurking in our homes.

Do a walk-through of your home with our Home Safety Checklist to look for and identify potential trouble spots.

Tickets to Art Over Wine 2017 are ON SALE NOW!

Purchase tickets today and be the first to bid in our live and silent auction. Tickets are $25. All proceeds benefit families in need throughout Central Iowa.

Purchase Tickets
Enjoy a sneak peek of some of the artwork that will be included in our live and silent auction at Art Over Wine 2017.

Interested in being a featured Central Iowa Artist? Call Kelli at (515) 280.1674 or email klaffoon@rebuildingdm.org to be considered.

Can’t make the event, but want to donate?

Donate

Stay in touch!