Wells Fargo National Rebuilding Day 2017

On May 5 and 6, Rebuilding Together teamed up with Wells Fargo and volunteers from more than 20 other organizations to participate in the sixth-annual Wells Fargo National Rebuilding Day.

Wells Fargo has been a long-standing supporter of Rebuilding Together, and our annual National Rebuilding Day. This project is funded by the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation and is the result of the hard work and dedication of more than 275 volunteers who worked together to make the dreams come true for over 30 low-income families throughout Greater Des Moines.

Ryan Harms Joins Board of Directors

Ryan Harms is the Branch Manager for Bank of the West at the 801 Grand Branch in downtown Des Moines. Ryan studied International Business and French Language at Central College where he obtained his Bachelor’s degree and went on to earn his Master’s degree in Business Leadership from William Penn University. Ryan is passionate about the Greater Des Moines Community and regularly volunteers his time with community organizations such as Young Professionals Connection and Young Variety. In his free time, Ryan also enjoys exploring new restaurants and spending time on the trails near his home with his wife Rachael, son Grayson, and dog Piper. Bank of the West operates more than 600 retail, wealth, commercial and business banking offices in 23 states. Prudent credit underwriting, a diversified loan portfolio, and careful risk management have allowed us to grow to more than $80.7 billion in assets. It is one of the nations largest banks, yet it preserves its local feel and its award-winning style of relationship banking that ensures superior customer service.

Bill Miller Joins Board of Directors
This year, Rebuilding Together signed on to partner with American Red Cross to include smoke detector installation as part of its National Rebuilding activities. As part of National Rebuilding Month and the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines installed 150+ smoke detectors in high-risk neighborhoods throughout the community.

Our annual Wells Fargo National Rebuilding Day would not be possible without the generosity of the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation. The impact of their continued philanthropy can be seen in the testimonies of this year’s families, volunteers, and friends of the project:

"I feel like I won the lottery," said homeowner Eunice Pearson as she welcomed volunteers and staff on her property that day. Working since she was 10 years old, surviving an abusive relationship, holding 2 jobs to support her 3 children, and then losing both parents to Cancer has been very hard on her. Eunice displays attributes of a very strong and humble person. "I've never been one to ask for help." This year she finally built up the courage to reach out and she's so glad she did. "I raised my kids in this home and the people here are really friendly. I don't want to leave," she tells us as her three dogs, Batman, Bell, and Tucker wag their tails in what seemed to be pure happiness for their owner.

Bill works for Turner Construction. He graduated from the University of KS / Mechanical Engineer and has been working in the construction field for 31+ years. His main focus has been MEP Coord / Manager. He's been involved with Health Care, Higher Education, Tenant Fit-out work, Research Labs, and Data Centers. Bill and his wife currently live in Johnston. Kristi works for OPN Architects in downtown Des Moines. He has had three 100 year old homes and truly loves fixing things.

Farewell, Welcome & Congrats!

It has been bitter sweet at the Rebuilding Together offices as we welcome our newest team members and bid farewell to some.

Jamie Lamb (pictured in middle), ended her internship with Rebuilding Together this May. She will spend her summer back in her hometown of Medinah, Illinois, babysitting and waiting tables. She looks forward to returning back to Des Moines next school year and will continue her focus in Psychology and Behavior Analysis of Developmental Disabilities. Good luck Jamie!

Meet our newest team members!

Michelle Kinney, Program Coordinator (pictured above on right), Michelle has over 25 years’ experience in the non-profit world. She has experience helping others and building relationships
Not too far from Eunice's home, we met up with another homeowner who was getting several repairs made to her home. "I grew up in this neighborhood and have so many memories here," Kathy Gesner told us. "My daughter delivered her first child in this house." Retired from Saydel School District after 40 years of service, Kathy recently moved her daughter and breast cancer survivor back home to help her while she works to get back on her feet. With pride for her neighborhood, Kathy states "This is a nice, older neighborhood, with a good mix of people. I've never had to worry about my safety here."

Kelli Laffoon, Executive Administrative Assistant (pictured above on left), brings more than 10 years of experience in office administration, events, and marketing to Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines. Her previous roles have helped her develop strong leadership and project management skills. She has a demonstrated history of using her strategic mind and creative skill set to help organizations grow. Passionate about family and her community, she has always been interested in nonprofit work and being a part of something that can make a difference in the lives of others. Kelli earned her Bachelors of Science in Business Administration and Management from AIB College of Business.

Congratulations!

A big congratulations to Katie Evans, our former Program Coordinator. Katie graduates from St. John's University this June with her Masters of Arts Degree in Global Development and Social Justice. She has been given the opportunity to take a 3 year research position in Europe with volunteers and is excited to bring those skills to Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines. Michelle previously has worked at Catholic Health Initiatives, City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, American Red Cross and Easter Seals Center of Iowa. Michelle currently coaches for the East Des Moines Lightning, an age-group swim team and enjoys whatever activity her children are participating in. Michelle holds a BA in Sociology from Drake University.
If you would like to see more pictures from Wells Fargo National Rebuilding Day 2017 view the photo album [here](#).

"At the end of the day when all the work is done and the homeowner comes to you with tears in their eyes and reaches to give you a big hug it makes you feel really good about what we're doing," said volunteer and House Captain, Sasha Kamper. "I am very happy to have made an impact on someone like that."

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer for next year's Wells Fargo National Rebuilding Day, contact us at contact us at 284-7403.

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Iowa Barnstormers - June 9, 2017

This year we are working with the Iowa Barnstormers to raise money for Rebuilding Together programs.

Tickets for the game on Friday, June 9th against Spokane Empire are for sale for only $10, with $5 of that going back to Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines.

A regular priced ticket is $19. This is just another way local organizations work with non-profits to build awareness and support their communities.
To order tickets, call Iowa Barnstormers at (515) 633.2255, or print the form and email it to mswim@theiowabarnstormers.com

**ORDER TICKETS**

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**Birdies for Charity June 6-11, 2017**

The 2017 Birdies for Charity is June 6-11, 2017. Rebuilding Together participates in the annual Birdies for Charity program each year. Program sponsors are Sammons Financial is matching 10% on ALL pledges made through the program and covering all administrative fees. John Deere provides monthly prizes for participating organizations and donors as well as the the grand prize for winner of the "Guess the Birdies" challenge. In 2016 there were 883 birdies, and the winner guessed 882. He received a brand new John Deere tractor.

As always, organizations will receive 100% of every donation collected, plus the 10% match up to $10,000, and there is no minimum match to recieve the 10%. In the past there was a $25 minimum. That has been waived. There is now no minimum.

**HOW YOU CAN PLEDGE**

**Per Birdie Pledge**
This is the amount you will contribute for each birdie made during the event. For example, if 700 birdies are made and you pledged $.05 per birdie, your total pledge will be $35.00.

**Flat Donation**
This is the flat amount that you will donate to Rebuilding Together. We will be collecting donations until July 31, 2017 for donors that weren’t able to pledge during the June event.

**Guess the Birdies**
Every donor has the opportunity to guess the exact number of birdies to be made during the 2017 tournament. The Grand Prize will be determined by a random drawing among all participants who correctly guessed the total number of birdies made.
Previous Birdie Totals

2016: 883 Birdies (883 x 0.05 = $44.15)
2015: 868 Birdies (868 x 0.05 = $43.40)
2014: 843 Birdies (843 x 0.05 = $42.15)
2013: 707 Birdies (707 x 0.05 = $35.35)
2012: 790 Birdies (790 x 0.05 = $39.50)
2011: 879 Birdies (879 x 0.05 = $43.95)
2010: 795 Birdies (795 x 0.05 = $39.75)
2009: 787 Birdies (787 x 0.05 = $39.35)
2008: 721 Birdies (721 x 0.05 = $36.05)

PLEDGE TODAY!

Mark Your Calendars!

When: Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 5:00-7:00 PM
Where: Jasper Winery 2400 George Flagg Pkwy, Des Moines
What: Wine Tasting, Hors d’oeuvres, Live and Silent Local Art Auction
Cost: $25 per ticket

Our annual fundraising event highlights artwork from local artists. Attendees will enjoy a wine tasting, hors d’oeuvres and a silent auction. Art Over Wine is designed to offer an evening of networking while featuring the works of local artists and supporting low-income families in Greater Des Moines.

Please join us in celebrating another year of helping low-income homeowners with repairs.

Tickets will be available for purchase August 1st.

Interested in being a featured Central Iowa Artist? Call Kelli at (515) 280.1674 to be considered.

ORDER TICKETS