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## **Rebuilding Together Dutchess County to Transform Homes, Educate Communities During National Rebuilding Month this April**

*Poughkeepsie, NY, April 1, 2017* – Rebuilding Together, a leading national nonprofit in safe and healthy housing that provides low-income homeowners with critical home repairs, will have its annual National Rebuilding Month this April. Nearly 40,000 volunteers will serve in more than 1,600 affiliate-led rebuild projects throughout National Rebuilding Month.

In our community, Rebuilding Together Dutchess County will host volunteers to repair 5 homes and a non-profit facility as well as provide safety modifications to dozens of homes during National Rebuilding Month. Homeowners being assisted on National Rebuilding Day include a 91 year old Army widow who will receive repairs focused on sustaining her independence, a Holmes resident living with her son who needs assistance on the maintenance of her 1905 home and an 88 year old Beacon resident who needs modifications so she can safely continue to live in her home. Rebuilding Together will also be continuing their Light It Up and Fire Safety programs during the month of April. These programs work to provide smoke and carbon detectors to residences in higher populated communities and solar-powered, motion-detector lights to homes in increased crime areas.

Throughout April, Rebuilding Together affiliates and volunteers will serve veterans, older adults, low-income families with children and victims of disaster by providing them with a variety of critical home repairs, including: flooring repairs and replacement, weatherization repairs, roof and handrail replacements, accessibility modifications, painting, landscaping and other major home rehabilitations. The repairs are provided free of charge to the homeowners who, often faced with diminishing resources, must choose food and medicine over critical home repairs – choices that, over time, can lead to crumbling foundations, dangerously sagging roofs and windows and doors that can't be securely shut.

“The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has indicated at least 30 million homes have one or more health hazards present,” said Caroline Blakely, President and CEO of Rebuilding Together. “National Rebuilding Month is an opportunity to educate communities on the close relationship of health and housing, to highlight the critical need for our home repair services and to call individuals to action until we ensure every person has a safe and healthy home.”

National Rebuilding Month will culminate on National Rebuilding Day, Saturday April, 29 and will engage volunteers in a concerted effort to complete repairs on homes, nonprofit facilities and community spaces to bring immediate, transformational change to communities across America on the same day.

National Rebuilding Month originated in 1973 in Midland, TX with volunteers helping neighbors rebuild their homes. The group founded Rebuilding Together, at the time “Christmas in April,” and gathered around a month of service each year in April. The mission then grew beyond the idea of providing service one month per year to bringing volunteers together to provide homeowners in need with critical repairs year-round.

For more information on National Rebuilding Month, visit [www.rtdutchess.org/national-rebuilding-month](http://www.rtdutchess.org/national-rebuilding-month) and follow #RebuildingMonth on social media.

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**About Rebuilding Together:**

Rebuilding Together is a leading national nonprofit in safe and healthy housing with more than 40 years of experience. Together, with our corporate and community partners, we transform the lives of low-income homeowners by improving the safety and health of their homes and revitalizing our communities. Rebuilding Together's local affiliates and nearly 100,000 volunteers complete about 10,000 rebuild projects nationwide each year. Learn more and get involved at [rebuildingtogether.org](http://rebuildingtogether.org) or at [rtdutchess.org](http://rtdutchess.org).