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**Rebuilding Together Dutchess County to Rebuild Six Homes, Revitalize Community During National Rebuilding Month this April**

*Poughkeepsie, NY, April 22, 2019* – Along with affiliates throughout the country, Rebuilding Together Dutchess County (RTDC) will perform critical home repairs for neighbors in need. More than 33,000 volunteers will serve in nearly 1,500 affiliate-led rebuild projects throughout the country during April’s National Rebuilding Month. Six of those projects (with two additional home projects taking place later in the spring) will happen right here in our Dutchess County communities.

Carole, a 55-year-old widow living in Wappingers Falls, is one of the homeowners being assisted. When she found out RTDC would be serving her, she couldn’t believe it. “I still pinch myself that this is even happening,” she says. Her husband suddenly passed away a year ago, leaving a house in various stages of renovation and three generations living in the home. “We did everything as a team, both in the house, and in life,” she says about her relationship with her late husband. Now Carole is concerned for the wellbeing of her grandchildren, living with asthma in an environment of crumbling plaster and dust, using appliances with extension cords, and walking in dark hallways without proper lighting. Looking ahead to the project day, Carole comments that it is a “big thing for us, it’s going to be a good day.”

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County and about 150 volunteers will serve people living with disabilities, senior citizens, and families in need this month, providing them with a variety of critical home repairs, including flooring and ceiling replacement, weatherization improvements, roof, door and handrail replacements, plumbing, painting, electrical repairs, and other major home rehabilitations. The repairs are provided at no cost to neighbors in need, who are often faced with diminishing resources and must choose food and medical care over critical home repairs. Over time, deferred maintenance can lead to crumbling foundations, dangerously sagging roofs and windows and doors that can’t be securely shut.

“What began as a grassroots effort to repair homes and revitalize communities is now a nationwide movement to ensure everyone can live in a safe home and community,” said Caroline Blakely, President and CEO of Rebuilding Together. “Through the work of our dedicated rebuilders we are able to positively impact the lives of our neighbors in need during the month of April and throughout the year.”

National Rebuilding Month will culminate on National Rebuilding Day, Saturday April 27, and will engage volunteers to complete repairs on homes, nonprofit facilities and community spaces to bring immediate, transformational change to neighborhoods across America on the same day.

National Rebuilding Month originated in 1973 in Midland, Texas 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 neighbors in need with critical repairs year-round.

For more information on National Rebuilding Month, visit <http://www.rebuildingtogetherdutchess.org/national-rebuilding-month> and follow #RebuildingMonth on social media.

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**Rebuilding Together** is a leading national nonprofit organization with a mission to repair the homes of people in need and revitalize our communities. Each year, Rebuilding Together affiliates and nearly 100,000 volunteers complete about 10,000 rebuild projects. **Rebuilding Together Dutchess County** and nearly 350 volunteers complete about 20 rebuild projects county-wide each year. Learn more and get involved at [www.rebuildingtogetherdutchess.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetherdutchess.org).