



AmeriCorps MLK Week of Service

by Dave Surico, AmeriCorps Program Coordinator

On January 19th, as I neared the halfway mark in my 11-month term of service with Rebuilding Together Dutchess County, I joined the other 32 Rebuilding Together AmeriCorps service members from throughout the country in New Orleans to perform a week of service in honor of the nationally recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (01/20/2020). The MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service and it has coined the term "a day on, not a day off."



Our members in attendance were able to staff four teams, each one providing four days of valuable home repair service to an assigned home in the Algiers neighborhood. The residents our team served were a mother and her adult son. Because of injuries sustained in an automobile accident some years ago, her son is unable to walk without assistance and is largely confined to a wheelchair.



One of the major accomplishments on our project was the building of a wheelchair ramp. We also built an outdoor stair to a back door, re-glazed windows and performed much needed painting. When looking at the totality of what we were able to provide the homeowner, it truly lived up to Rebuilding Together's mission of repairing homes, revitalizing communities and rebuilding lives. I am happy to have been a part of that.

