



Rebuilding Together Central Alabama

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What is Rebuilding Together?

Rebuilding Together is the leading national volunteer organization that, in partnership with the community, rehabilitates the houses of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and disabled, so they may continue to live in warmth, safety and independence. We unite people of all faiths, walks of life, racial and ethnic groups, ages and sexes in an effort to assist people in need.

Why is Rebuilding Together needed?

Many of our neighbors have worked hard all their lives and have been physically and financially able to repair their homes for most of that time. Now due to illness, aging, inflation or any number of uncontrollable causes, they are unable to do the repair work and their homes have become unsafe and unlivable. There are more than nine million elderly, low-income homeowners in America. The majority are women who live alone. Some spend more than 40% of their income on housing expenditures, but many cannot afford to make needed repairs. The result is a loss of the homeowner's dignity and crumbling neighborhoods. One day of volunteer effort can make a difference in peoples' lives.

How did the program get started?

Nationally, Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April) began in 1973 when volunteers in Midland, Texas decided to devote one day in April to repairing and sprucing up dilapidated homes of low-income, disabled, and elderly neighbors in their community. By 1982 the program had reached the Washington, D.C. area. With a commitment to spread the program to every state, Christmas in April * USA was launched in 1988. There are now more than 240 programs in 50 states with 31,000+ homes that have been repaired. The local affiliate started in 1993 when a group of concerned and dedicated volunteers started the program to serve the Montgomery area. Locally, more than 500 homeowners have been assisted.

What repairs are done?

Our goal is to assist homeowners to become warm, safe and dry in their home. This might involve carpentry, plumbing, electrical, sheetrock, roofing, painting, glazing, weather stripping, locksmithing, as well as trash removal and cleaning.

Who is eligible for help?

Low income homeowners who are typically elderly, disabled, or a family with children and are not able to do the work themselves are eligible. They must live in Montgomery, Elmore or Autauga county.

How are homes selected?

Religious, neighborhood, community, and service organizations often refer homeowners for our services. Interested agencies or homeowners may request applications by calling or writing Rebuilding Together Central Alabama.

Applications are reviewed to confirm the house is occupied by the owner. Homeowners are then interviewed by members of the house selection committee who review the applicant's financial situation and the repairs needed. A work scope visit is then made by a skilled tradesperson who assesses the extent of the repairs to be done, the materials needed and the skills required. The Executive Director and the Homeowner Selection Committee then determine which applicants best fit our resources and schedule the repairs when volunteer workers are available.

Who pays for repairs?

All repairs are provided by Rebuilding Together Central Alabama at no cost to the homeowner. Homeowners are asked to work with volunteers, if able, in the spirit of neighbor-helping-neighbor.

Who sponsors Rebuilding Together Central Alabama?

Funds and donations come from businesses, religious organizations, foundations, service organizations, clubs, associations and individuals - - from neighbors who care. Contributions are tax-deductible and go directly to Rebuilding Together Central Alabama.

Who can volunteer?

Anyone 16 or older can be a volunteer. Volunteers do not need to be skilled in home repairs, but skilled tradespersons are always in demand to allow us to tackle the more difficult jobs.