

Those in Need, Those Who Help are Rebuilding Together

Lori Weisberg: San Diego Union-Tribune; April 22, 2007

A dozen low-income homeowners will get their houses renovated Saturday as part of a daylong charitable event sponsored each year by RebuildingTogether San Diego.

In addition to the homes, most of which suffer from deferred maintenance, Rebuilding Together is also helping refurbish three nonprofit facilities, including the Ocean Beach fire station and the Copley YMCA in City Heights.

Each renovation job differs, depending on the needs of the homeowners, who largely live in older San Diego neighborhoods from San Ysidro to Linda Vista.

In the case of one home where a mother and her two teenage daughters all suffer from asthma, volunteers will be removing carpeting, debris and mold in the home, all of which are aggravating the family's breathing problems.

In the Paradise Valley area, corporate partner Clark Construction will be rebuilding a garage, widening the bathrooms and putting in a new kitchen, according to Rebuilding Together director Pamela Thorsch.

More than 1,000 volunteers, supported by corporate partners like the San Diego Association of Realtors, AARP and the Design Institute of San Diego, will be working throughout the day Saturday to complete all the renovation work.

Also helping out is the International Feng Shui Guild of San Diego, whose members will advise homeowners on paint color selections, furniture placement, plant selection and other environmental adjustments that might influence their mood.

For more information on the event or how to make financial donations, contact Rebuilding Together at (619) 231-7873 or rtsd@rebuildingtogethersd.org.