

Agency plans day of rebuilding for elderly, disabled

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Thirteen homeowners, primarily elderly and disabled, will be the beneficiaries of a massive one-day renovation effort led by the nonprofit agency Rebuilding Together San Diego.

Next Saturday 1,000 volunteers will converge on 13 homes and two community facilities in San Diego County to undertake everything from repainting and mold remediation to replacing doors and windows and reorganizing an impossibly cluttered house.

Various organizations and businesses have agreed to sponsor homes, and several professionals, including plumbers, electricians, carpenters and contractors, have agreed to donate their expertise.

The stories of those who will be helped are especially moving. Among them are a gifted maritime artist who lives below poverty level but has donated his artwork to various veterans groups and cannot afford to fix up his home; a paralyzed San Diego man who needs a wheelchair-accessible bathroom and health-threatening mold removed from his home; an elderly Imperial Beach woman who shares a home with her son, who tried to fix up the house but instead turned it into a construction zone.

Rebuilding Together hopes to have all the work done in one day, if possible, although the organization has been doing some prep work ahead of time.

While it has a number of unskilled volunteers lined up, Rebuilding Together is still hoping to recruit more skilled professionals to help complete the work and is also looking for cash and in-kind donations, such as windows, stoves, water heaters and carpet.

For more information, call Pamela Thorsch of Rebuilding Together at (619) 231-7873 or e-mail her at pamela@rebuildingtogethersd.org.