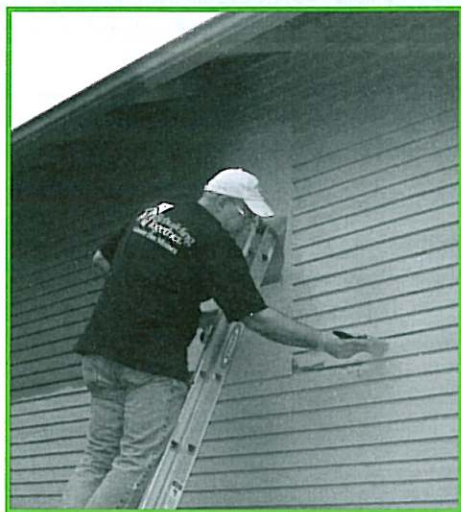




Our mission is to preserve and revitalize houses and communities, assuring that low-income homeowners, particularly those who are elderly and disabled and families with children live in warmth, safety, and independence.

Homeowner Spotlight - A New Beginning



JoAnn Dennis and her husband purchased their home in 1957. Since the loss of her spouse and her own personal health issues, she needed help to maintain her home. She wanted to share her story because, Rebuilding Day 2007, also the 50th Anniversary of living in her home, was the “second best day of her life”.

Earlier this year, JoAnn made application to our program and after the qualification process and a physical assessment of her property she was accepted to receive services.

Many hours went in to planning this project, assigning a house captain (Scott Cooley lead the large volunteer team from R and R Realty Group) who developed the work scope and materials list, recruited volunteers and skilled labor and secured in-kind donations. Tom Gayman, one of the volunteers, commented, “Rebuilding Together’s work provides a great opportunity for companies, employees, vendors and individuals to participate in a one day rehabilitation for a deserving person, like JoAnn. When I drove away from her house at the end of the day, I knew we had made a difference in her life”.



This was just one of many projects completed on our annual Rebuilding Day, May 5, 2007 in the greater Des Moines area that utilized nearly 1,000 volunteers. At JoAnn’s house, the team made necessary repairs to a sagging roof and siding, painted, installed new Low-E windows, handrails, insulation, smoke/CO detectors, fixed leaking faucets and improved lighting. Her monthly budget billing was just reduced from \$176 to \$147 which she credits to the energy efficient improvements. For persons on a fixed income this is just one of the many outcomes of the work of Rebuilding Together.

JoAnn reflected, “The volunteers were the best people I ever met”. Now every day is a good day as she remembers how grateful she is for Rebuilding Together and the volunteers who spent the day at her house. Now you know why JoAnn said it was the second best day of her life (the first was her wedding day).

