

### Rebuilding Together Twin Cities 2016 Highlights and Accomplishments

With the support of our many partners and the hard work of volunteers, Rebuilding Together Twin Cities preserves affordable homeownership for low-income families, older adults, individuals living with disabilities, and active and retired members of the armed services in our community. **Together, we are able to provide the repairs and accessibility modifications needed for these homeowners to remain in the homes and neighborhoods they love.** 

Sano and Russell love their home in North Minneapolis. Although most of their children have grown up and have moved on to college, Sano and Russell's house is still busy with foster children, daycare children, and children in crisis. They have been foster parents since 2001, caring for children in the community for various periods of time. Unfortunately, early last fall a tree destroyed the thick landscaping that insulated their back yard from a busy adjacent city street. In order for Sano and Russell to continue hosting children at their home, they needed a fence built to create a safe space for the children to play, learn and grow together. Our volunteers built a fence and retaining wall and made other repairs at Sano and Russell's home. Sano made her famous jerk chicken for lunch for the volunteers on both days, and Sano and Russell and their daughter Jada and friend Josh worked side-by-side with the volunteers. Sano sent us this note, "I just want to thank you all again for really blessing my family. Keeping kids happy and safe is our first priority. Thanks a million, and if there's anything I can do to help others, please let me know. I can't get over this blessing."



We partnered with 829 volunteers to serve 192 homeowners and 895 people served by 11 nonprofit facilities and community spaces in 2016.

We work year-round to preserve affordable homeownership, build healthy neighborhoods and ensure that homeowners in need can live independently in safe and healthy homes. Our programs serve low-income homeowners and address three primary needs: **Accessibility**, **Livability** and **Community**.

# **Accessibility Services:**

- Safe at Home Program provides volunteer-delivered safety and fall prevention modifications and ramps for older adults or those living with a disability so that they can continue to live in safety and independence in their own homes.
- Access for Always Program provides larger, contractor-delivered environmental home modifications such as doorway widening and kitchen or bathroom renovations to enable aging-in-place and single-level living.

#### **Livability Services:**

- Home Repair Program creates healthier, more livable homes by providing volunteer-delivered repairs including weatherizing, cleaning, installing flooring, patching and painting, siding, landscaping, and almost anything that restores the homeowners' independence, safety and security.
- Essential Systems Repair Program provides timely contractor-delivered repair or replacement of essential systems such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing, outer envelope and roofs that are critical to healthy, livable homes.

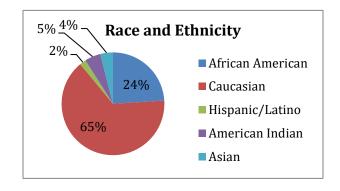


#### **Community Services:**

- Community Strong fosters vibrant communities by providing safe and welcoming spaces for communities to gather. Projects include renovation and beautification work for community centers, schools, supportive housing facilities and outdoor community spaces.
- ReNeighboring Program transforms donated vacant homes into safe, healthy and affordable housing for qualified homeowners who earn less than 120% of the Area Median Income. Proceeds from the sale of these professionally-rehabilitated homes are invested back into Rebuilding Together programs.

# **Homeowner Demographics:**

- 100% of homeowners who received our costfree services are at or below 50% of the Area Median Income and 48% are at or below 30% of the Area Median Income.
- On average, the homeowners we served last year have lived in their home for 29 years.
- 91% of the homeowners we served are individuals living with a disability.
- 63% of the homeowners served are older adults.
- 18% of the homeowners served are veterans.





**Tom** uses a wheelchair after having his left leg amputated below the knee. He was all but trapped in his home and could not get out without asking several friends, family and neighbors to lift him in his wheelchair out of the house. Volunteers built a wheelchair ramp for Tom, making it possible for him to safely and independently come and go from his home. "I couldn't thank them enough," he said. "When they were done with the ramp and it was time for them to call it a day .... I went out and talked to them and I told them I was truly moved."

We are extremely grateful for the support of our partners and volunteers, which has made it possible for us to help homeowners like Sano and Russell and Tom, as well as community organizations serving those in need. Thank you for supporting our efforts to help low-income homeowners in the Twin Cities live independently in safe and healthy homes.