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Volunteers Help Iraq Veteran Come Home: Community Partners Join Forces to Make Home Accessible

Rebuilding Together, NARI, Adventist Healthcare, and many Montgomery County Skilled Trades Make Needed Home Improvements

Silver Spring, Maryland – July 18, 2007 – Rebuilding Together Montgomery County (RTMC), in partnership with NARI, Adventist Healthcare, and other Montgomery County businesses and trades have come together to bring needed accessibility improvements to the home of an injured veteran returning from Iraq. The culmination of their efforts is being celebrated today as Army Specialist Ryan C. Major prepares to return home.

Specialist Major, 22, suffered severe wounds resulting in the amputation of both legs, damage to both arms, internal injuries and a traumatic brain injury. The injuries occurred November 9, 2006 when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonated near him while searching for suspected bomb makers on foot patrol with his unit in Ramadi. Specialist Major's division had been in Iraq for nearly a year at the time of his injury and he had previously sustained injuries from grenade shrapnel.

Rebuilding Together and collaborative community partners such as NARI and Adventist Healthcare are making Specialist Major's home safe and accessible by installing an elevator, converting a den into a bedroom, and building a new wheelchair accessible bathroom. The initial funding was provided through Sears Holdings Company, and volunteer labor was donated by local Sears and Kmart stores. However, much of the skilled labor and materials were provided by the many local contractors who donated their time and expertise to make Specialist Major's homecoming possible.

In celebration of Specialist Major's return home, Rebuilding Together Montgomery County is hosting a press conference and tour of the work to demonstrate what like-minded community businesses and individuals can do to support our troops. County Executive Ike Leggett and County Council President Marilyn J. Praisner are both expected to attend. This will also provide the many Montgomery County skilled volunteers and donors with the opportunity to come meet Specialist Major and see the full impact of their efforts over the last two months.

About Rebuilding Together

Rebuilding Together Montgomery County (RTMC) is a local volunteer-based housing organization which brings volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of homeowners in need. RTMC covers all cities and townships within Montgomery County, and has repaired 1,139 homes since its founding in 1990, utilizing over 33,300 volunteers. For qualified homeowners, the repairs and modifications performed by RTMC are completed at no charge to them. For more information, please visit www.rebuildingtogethermc.org or call 301-933-2700.

RTMC is an affiliate of the national nonprofit Rebuilding Together, which has 230 affiliates, mobilizes approximately 270,000 volunteers and renovates more than 9,000 homes per year. Rebuilding Together is celebrating the rehabilitation of its 100,000th home this year. For details, see www.rebuildingtogether.org or call 1-800-REHAB-9.

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