

REBUILDING TOGETHER MONTGOMERY COUNTY
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Rebuilding Together Montgomery County Responds to Rebuild 1000! **Rebuild 1000 kicked off, November 16 - 20, 2005 in New Orleans.**

Montgomery County: MD - Answering the call to restore decent housing to families in need, the national organization Rebuilding Together will rebuild 1000 houses affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

As the nation's largest volunteer home rehabilitation organization, Rebuilding Together has a long history of expertise in managing and executing rehabilitation work. To kick off this commitment of 1000 houses, teams of volunteers from Countrywide, Ameri-corps, and Rebuilding Together affiliates across the Nation (**Montgomery County MD**, Orange County CA, Pasadena CA, Oakland CA, New Orleans LA, Calcasieu LA) came together to help repair and modify 3 homes in four days.

Rebuilding Together Montgomery County recruited local NARI (National Association of the Remodeling Industry) builders to supply skilled workers – Hopkins and Porter Construction, Merrick Design & Build, Wainright Engineering & Consulting, Potomac Builders, and 'Gotch ya Covered Roofing' responded to the call. ARG, a telecommunications company sent 6 of its employees along with its President. Underwriters Laboratory helped underwrite this venture as well. All of this happened within 24 hours!

For decades, Augustine Cook, her sister, Orelia Anderson, their brother, David Henry and their spouses lived in three houses within sight of each other in the Lower Algiers neighborhood of New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina forced them to evacuate and scattered them throughout Louisiana and Texas. All of their homes received damage from Katrina, two of them, extensive damage.

They did not have insurance and the elderly homeowners didn't have the financial nor physical wherewithal to make the repairs that would allow them to return home in safety and comfort. On November 16-20, dozens of volunteers spent their time repairing and renovating the three homes from the roofs, down, so Mrs. Cook, the Andersons and the Henrys could be home in time for Thanksgiving. Individuals and families accepted into the program receive, at no cost to them, all the materials and supplies necessary to complete the repairs inflicted by the hurricanes.

"I came with my team to assist and help these folks get their lives back together. You talk to Mrs. Cook and we hear her say 'I'm blessed' and then you realize how blessed we are." Jeff Jackson, ARG Partner

"We are proud and honored to have helped these families rebuild their homes and their lives in New Orleans. When we put out the call to our volunteer base about gathering a team of skilled volunteers who would have to take time off of work, travel at their own expense, and work 16 hours days we had enough volunteers in less than 24 hours. Just amazing. It always amazes me how kind, loving and giving people really are. They came, they gave, and we made a difference, together!" Melissa Flynn, Executive Director.

Support for Rebuild 1000! has come from many sources, from garage sales to a major corporate contribution from Countrywide Financial Corporation. According to Patricia Johnson CEO of the National office, "Financial support is badly needed – and we are proud that we can typically quadruple every dollar given to Rebuilding Together by using donated materials and supplies and volunteer labor. We are committed for the long haul."

Every one of us has seen the images of the devastation in the gulf coast region from the recent hurricanes. Their lives have been torn upside down. Many people can and will rebuild because we as a Nation are focused on their needs. What many people don't realize is that thousands of Montgomery County homeowners are living in need too. Living with inadequate heating, running water, and sound roofing systems, right in our own backyard.

Montgomery County is one of the richest counties in the country. Did you know that 57% of the clients we serve live below

the poverty level? It is amazing that in such a wealthy county that the average income of our clients is \$13,750 supporting two family members. No wonder they cannot afford to pay for repairs, modifications, heat, food, and health care. Every year over 2,000 volunteers from throughout Montgomery County come out to help over 100 elderly and disabled homeowners who can no longer perform or afford home repairs and modifications. Rebuilding Together will continue to touch the lives of our neighbors who have nowhere else to turn. Together we can build a spirit of hope and mutual caring in our communities—the best example of the American spirit in action today.

You can make a difference too! Right here in Montgomery County or in the Gulf Coast region. For more information about the Montgomery County affiliate, go to www.rebuildingtogethermc.org. For more information about the National organization and the Rebuild 1000 project, go to www.rebuildingtogether.org.

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