

# Brushstrokes



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## DID YOU KNOW...

- The Spring Workday is scheduled for April 2006.
- Rebuilding Together QC has repaired over 430 homes since 1989.

## ABOUT US...

Rebuilding Together Quad Cities started in 1990 as Hearts and Hammers QCA. In May 2001, we changed our name to Rebuilding Together to reflect our mission of working together to rebuild homes, communities, and lives.

We are affiliated with a national organization, also known as Rebuilding Together. We work to unite people of all backgrounds in a voluntary effort to provide home repairs for elderly, disabled, and low-income homeowners at no cost.

## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTS ON FIRST WORK DAY

As the new Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Quad Cities (RTQC), I was put under the fire of my first Workday this past September 17, 2005 — and what a rewarding experience!

We worked on 14 houses in and around the Quad City area, involved over 80 volunteers, board members, and house captains in the completion of over \$5,000 in vital home repairs.

Church groups, corporate groups, local construction companies and many individuals teamed up to repair homes for those who might not have been able to make their home a better place to live. Needless to say, I was impressed with RTQC early on by accepting this position, but I have been even more touched by the events surrounding my first workday.

One of the outcomes that I hope all involved came away with was the need for RTQC to be at their particular home and, more importantly, the response from the homeowner before, during, and after the work was completed.



*Volunteers install a new cellar door, adding safety and accessibility to the home of some Rock Island seniors.*

Thank you seems pale and not quite strong enough of a word to describe how the board and myself feel about the volunteers. Volunteers took a beautiful Saturday to help our community and our organization.

As the RTQC motto states, we are trying to make this a better community, one home at a time. Volunteers did just that for 14 homeowners on September 17th.

You may also be impressed as I was that in the past 14 years, RTQC has improved over 400+ homes, involved over 8,000 volunteers, and worked in 11 different communities—something of which to be proud. It is truly a life



Rebuilding Together is located at Cobblestone Place - 1212 West 3rd Street, Davenport. **Thanks** to John Lewis Community Services for providing this space! You can still send correspondence or your donation to PO Box 3245, Davenport, IA 52808-3245

## SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FALL WORK DAY!

Expenses for the 2005 Spring workday came to just over \$5,000. Thanks to all volunteers and financial contributors for materials, supplies, and food preparation!. Your support and your time make it possible to continue our work in the Quad Cities!

Deere NEON Volunteer Group  
First Presbyterian Church , Davenport  
Illinois Quad City Rotary Club  
American Family Insurance  
ACC Building Trades  
Russell Construction  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Illinois City United Methodist Church Group  
Church of Peace, Rock Island  
K-Mart  
Bread Basket  
United Church of Peace, Rock Island  
Karla & Lisa Jones  
Valerie and Dave Buechel  
Grant Coffmann  
Hy-Vee, Debbie Geisler  
A.D. Huesing, Rock Island  
Rock Island Arsenal Woman's Club  
Rebuilding Together Quad Cities Board  
TPC  
Moline Foundation  
Doris and Victor Day Foundation  
Rauch Family Foundation  
Scott County Regional Authority  
Rock Island Community Foundation

### Bettendorf Home gets Mini-Makeover



*Volunteers from the Deere Neon Group work cautiously as they paint this Bettendorf home of a single parent family.*

**"I can't afford to call a plumber, especially with my medications."  
Moline homeowner.**

At 83, "Mrs. J" still cans her own tomatoes. But with a fixed budget and high medication costs, she didn't know where to turn for help for her home's leaking kitchen and hot water faucets,



*Mrs. "J" —Moline*

Fortunately, her home care aide from Trinity Visiting Nurses brought her an application for Rebuilding Together Quad Cities, and her home was chosen for the Fall 2005 workday.

Volunteers Erwin Millen and John Smitz spent the day making a few small repairs, caulking windows, resetting a toilet, installing a ceiling fan and handling other repairs. Rebuilding Together contracted a plumber to repair the kitchen faucet. "I'm so grateful," exclaimed Mrs. J.

### Timely Winter Repairs for Rock Island Homeowner

House captain Scott Rochau and a team of volunteers from Faith Lutheran Church in Eldridge spent a warm fall day this September helping out a Rock Island homeowner.

The church team replaced and repaired windows and installed a new cellar door for the senior couple. The repairs will help make the home more weather-tight this winter, as well as secure an unsafe basement entrance.



*- Homeowner Profiles Contributed by Lisa Lockheart*

## Rebuilding the Future Together

- Contributed by Rod Jennings, Executive Director

As new Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Quad Cities, I see the future of our organization as solid. We are well received in the community, enjoy corporate and private foundation support, and we have the best volunteer corps of workers I have been associated with— including the RTQC Board of Directors.

You might ask, as did I, what and where do we go from here? Great question! One that over the next few months will be addressed by the staff and board of RTQC. A few of the thoughts about the future of RTQC include:

- Expanding our workdays to quarterly;
- Expanding our individual donor base;
- Hosting a special event to highlight the organization;
- Increasing awareness about RTQC;
- Thanking those that have been instrumental in our success;
- Increasing the number of homes repaired each year.

Whew! We have a busy schedule of areas to discuss in furthering our mission. The old adage stating “if you’re not looking to the future you’re repeating the past” seems true and this organization will continue to look forward with an eye on becoming better at what we do to improve the quality of home ownership in the Quad City area—one home at a time!

### Hats Off to our House Captains!

A.J. Loss, Chip Hessler, Bill Potter, Scott Rauchau, John Arvanis, Chad Blunt, Jim O’Neil, Erwin Milen.



*Volunteers can be found up and down this Rock Island Home.*

## HOME MODIFICATIONS RESTORE ACCESS AND EXPAND FREEDOM

Before the Rebuilding Together workday on September 18, just getting into the bathroom was a chore for Doug. Paralyzed below the waist and in poor health after a work accident 18 years ago, the Milan homeowner’s path into the bathroom was blocked by a too narrow door. Getting in meant unhooking monitors and medical equipment, and then pulling himself out of his chair – not exactly a convenient process.

House captain Bill Potter and a dedicated crew of carpenters, painters and other volunteers spent a full day at the home, widening the bathroom door, putting in a new bathroom floor and installing a handheld shower faucet. Extra helpers in the form of Rebuilding Together board members showed up in the afternoon to help wrap up projects, including replacing and painting window trim on the interior of the home. The work came just in time, as the homeowner was scheduled for more surgery right after the workday.



### A few words from a Volunteer...



Dear Rebuilding Together:

I am a senior in high school and I participated in this years fall event. I had a great time. My dad and I helped a single-parent family with their house, with the help of Russell Construction company. We helped repaint, while workers from Russell did some of the jobs that required carpentry skills.

There was something for everyone to do. It didn't matter if you had any skills in repairing things.

I would encourage anyone who is interested in making a difference in their community to sign up for a Rebuilding Together project!

*Grant Coffman,  
Pleasant Valley High School  
Service Learning Volunteer*



P.O. Box 3245  
Davenport, IA 52808-3245

Phone: 563-322-6534  
Fax: 563-323-3782

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## CHECK US OUT AT [WWW.REBUILDINGTOGETHERQUADCITIES.ORG](http://WWW.REBUILDINGTOGETHERQUADCITIES.ORG)

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### Board of Directors

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Steve Barton  
Rich Craddick  
Tom Dasso  
P.J. Foley  
Mark Jones  
Mony Chhoun-Johnson  
Lisa Lockheart  
John Muenster  
Jay Tapper

### Executive Director

Rod Jennings

**"We just sent our son to a church service project in Alaska, and we thought, there are service projects we can do right here in the Quad Cities."**

*-Rebuilding Together Volunteer*



Rebuilding Together is built on the kindness of Quad City volunteers.

Your gift to Rebuilding Together Quad Cities is a gift to a household in need.

Here is where your Contribution Goes...

\$25 Install safe, secure locks.

\$100 Stop a Leak.

\$150 Add safety bars to a bathtub.

\$250 Replace a broken door or window.

\$2,500+ Repair or replace a bad roof.