

## **For Immediate Release**

January 29, 2008

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## **Quinnipiac University Students & Rebuilding Together Hartford Help Connecticut Seniors Age In Place**

(Hartford, Connecticut, January 29, 2008) - Quinnipiac University and Rebuilding Together Hartford (RTH) are working together to help Connecticut seniors live in warmth, safety and independence.

A non-profit organization, RTH brings volunteers and communities together to perform critical home repairs for low-income Hartford homeowners. By partnering with the students of Quinnipiac University's Occupational Therapy Program, the organization and the university will be able to help seniors in need learn ways to cope with and adapt to limitations that affect their daily lives.

"Identifying hazards that can contribute to falls, decreased mobility and poor accessibility can be easily overlooked by the untrained eye," explains Greg Secord, RTH's executive director. "Our collaboration with Quinnipiac University's Occupational Therapy Program will ensure we address all safety hazards in the homes of our neighbors who need our help."

Quinnipiac University's students accompany RTH volunteers on renovation projects throughout Hartford to help RTH evaluate the quality of life and mobility issues of seniors who wish to remain in their homes. The students make recommendations for home modifications, such as how to eliminate hazardous conditions and improve accessibility – all to help seniors sustain the independence needed to remain in their own homes.

"During home visits with RTH, our students apply the lessons from their classes directly to those in need in the Hartford community," said Quinnipiac University's Pam Hewitt, OTR/L, CAPS. "This experience has not only allowed them to see how occupational therapy can provide services outside of the clinic setting, but also how combining the expertise of two different professions can result in customized, personalized assistance for many families in need."

RTH addresses the home safety needs of Hartford seniors by employing the Aging In Place philosophy, which focuses on using education and collaboration to keep seniors safe in their own homes, as opposed to moving into an assisted living community or nursing home environment.

Having the luxury of staying in your own home is ideal for most seniors. Together, RTH and Quinnipiac University students will help ensure more Hartford seniors are able to do so.

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***Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc., is a nonprofit, nonsectarian, volunteer organization dedicated to helping low-income homeowners, through home renovation and repair. Its goal is to keep people living in warmth, safety and independence, while helping to build better***

*neighborhoods in Hartford. For more information, visit [www.rthartford.org](http://www.rthartford.org)*  
*<<http://www.rthartford.org>> .*