

## **REBUILDING TOGETHER HARTFORD HELPS LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS SAVE MONEY *AND* THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Energy-Efficiency Repairs Are Top Priority for Upcoming Annual Event**

**Hartford, Conn., April 23, 2008**—This Saturday, April 26, Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. will hold its annual National Rebuilding Day, when more than 500 volunteers and 35 community partners will come together and restore 25 homes while making them more energy efficient, resulting in crucial savings for low income homeowners.

The main goal of the restoration projects taking place on National Rebuilding Day is making homes healthier, safer and more accessible. This year, given the rising cost of utilities, making homes more energy efficient is another top priority and the main focus of Rebuilding Together Hartford's **Energy Efficiency Program**. The program concentrates on increasing energy efficiency in low-income homes and helps homeowners save money by reducing their energy usage. **Every home** being restored on National Rebuilding Day will benefit from some type of improvement that will enable homeowners to save both energy and money.

Basic energy efficiency upgrades being made on National Rebuilding Day include replacing traditional light bulbs with compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, adding weather stripping to areas exposed to drafts and replacing broken windows. More in-depth projects will include the installation of storm doors, setback thermostats, and outlet and switch insulation on exterior walls; cleaning and tuning up furnaces; as well as replacing old refrigerators with ENERGY STAR refrigerators.

Rebuilding Together Hartford has recently been able to increase the number of projects in its Energy Efficiency Program as a result of a grant from the **American Petroleum Institute**. In addition, many of the materials used to make repairs are donated from businesses participating in Connecticut's **Weatherization Residential Assistance Partnership (WRAP)**. WRAP helps income-eligible customers reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient.

Of the 25 homeowners selected for National Rebuilding Day, 20 are elderly individuals. The elderly are the most susceptible to financial difficulties as a result of rising energy costs. Through its energy efficient repair projects, Rebuilding Together Hartford enables elderly homeowners and their families to safely and economically remain in their homes for years to come.

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).

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