Rebuilding Together Oakland County Hosts Rebuild Day To Benefit Homeowners In Need

The Lakes Community Church of Walled Lake and Jamie Greaves, daughter of Ken Campbell, from the Ken Campbell Memorial House. Greaves partnered with The Lakes Community Church to lead them in their sponsorship of a home in West Bloomfield.

BY ALI ARMSTRONG
EDITOR

Over 1000 volunteers helped to repair dozens of Oakland County homes at a Rebuilding Together Oakland County rebuild day on April 27.

Rebuilding Together Oakland County began over 20 years ago with the mission to bring communities and volunteers together to provide free housing repair and neighborhood revitalization for low-income homeowners in Oakland County.

The organization was started in 1988 as “Christmas in April” with 13 loosely organized community service programs. Rebuilding Together Oakland County was founded in 1992.

This year over 40 homes in Oakland County were repaired in the communities of Huron Valley, Farmington Hills, Pontiac, Southfield, Commerce, Wixom, Walled Lake and Wolverine Lake.

Volunteer and house captain Jamie Greaves worked within the organization’s coined “CW3 area” (Commerce, Walled Lake, Wixom and Wolverine Lake.)

Greaves has been a part of the organization since 1993 when her father volunteered.

“In 1993 my dad was involved with Rebuilding Together that started out of Highland,” Greaves said. “That year they repaired four homes and my dad was hooked. He worked for the township in the building department and it was right up his alley. They kind of spearheaded what we now call the ‘CW3 Group.’”

Greaves’ father passed away 10 years ago in a plane crash, but since his death she has been working with the organization that he loved.

She has been working as a house captain for the past eight years and this year helped repair a home with volunteers from her church, Lakes Community Church.

Family pastor at The Lakes Community Church, Tom Ford and his son Matt Ford.

Volunteers helped repair the home of Nancy Batzer by replacing flooring, kitchen cabinets and much more.

“It’s a lot of work that goes into this day to bless these homeowners with the repairs they need. It’s amazing what we can do in a day,” Greaves said. “I was raised to serve others…this was just another way to serve. Now I have my own kids and I am just trying to keep that going.”

A typical Rebuilding Together homeowner may be: a senior citizen, a veteran, a disabled person or more.

To date Rebuilding Together Oakland County has repaired 584 homes and non-profit facilities; volunteers have performed over 250,000 hours of volunteer service; and delivered $5.5 million in market value.

The organization also performs landscaping needs for homeowners.

For six years Cheryl Gosselin has been working with Rebuilding Together Oakland County and area high school students to perform landscaping duties to those in need.

Students from Walled Lake Northern and Walled Lake Central are a part of the program.

“We come in on rebuild day…and we spruce up their yards by raking, tree trimming, planting and more,” Gosselin said. “This is the first time students are face to face with those in need and make the connection that they are really helping somebody. They put a face with what they’re doing which I think is a great part about this program.”

Gosselin began working with Rebuilding Together Oakland County after years of being a Girl Scout leader.

“I’ve been a Girl Scout leader for 11 years and that is how I found out about rebuild,” she said. “We just got a group together of high school boys and other students and it just grew from there. It’s gratifying for me to help the seniors do their yard, but it’s equally as gratifying to see the kids get a kick out of it.”

Applications to be considered for home repairs in April are accepted year-round. To be eligible for home repairs you must: own and live in your house, be current on your mortgage and taxes as well as have homeowners insurance.

Applications for homeowners, volunteers and sponsors can be found at http://rebuildingtogether-oaklandcounty.org/applications.html. For more information call 248-432-6551.

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