

Volunteers to rehab veteran's home via Rebuilding Oakland Together

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An article by Leslie Shepard

In the spirit of community giving, a collective of Wixom volunteers and members of the Walled Lake Eagles will be working side-by-side to rebuild an underprivileged resident's home during the city's 6th Annual Rebuilding Oakland Together Day, set for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 28.

Together the 50+ volunteers will be rebuilding a home at 2886 Benstein in Walled Lake. By the time the event rolls around, Wixom Parks and Recreation Supervisor Linda Hinkley anticipates about 60 volunteers.

"We're still getting in applications," Hinkley said. "We've been working with the Walled Lake Eagles for six years now and they've been gracious to come over here for the last five, so we want to reciprocate and work on a home in their area."

The beneficiary is one of the Walled Lake Eagles club members.

"He's one of our members and served some time in the war," said Keith Erdman, president of the Walled Lake Eagles.

The planned improvements to the interior include bathroom renovations, where a shower stall, vanity, and medicine cabinet will be installed, in addition to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements. New flooring will be installed in the kitchen, dining room, and bedroom, courtesy of Modern Floors.

The kitchen, living room, and bathroom will be given fresh coats of paint. New blinds will be hung, and plumbing and electrical work will be conducted.

Planned exterior enhancements include yard work, deck improvements, painting a shed, and installing a flagpole.

Each of the Rebuilding Oakland Together projects is intended for low-income Oakland County residents who are either elderly, disabled, military veterans, or families with children that are unable to do the work themselves and meet low-income guidelines. The group's mission is to bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners.

Rebuilding Together Oakland County was founded in 1992. It has rehabilitated over 584 homes and a number of non-profit facilities, adding over \$5.5 million dollars in market value to neighborhoods and communities while allowing homeowners to remain in their homes.