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Navy reservist, family get home makeover in Milford

LAUREN ABDEL-RAZZAQ THE DETROIT NEWS 2 COMMENTS



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David Fredericksen said the home makeover 'has been a huge blessing ... When I look at everything that's been done, I don't know what to say.' (Photos by Daniel Mears/The Detroit News)

When David and Lisa Fredericksen bought their home in Milford three years ago, the family barely had time to move in, let alone make repairs, before David was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

"We signed on the house and a month later I was on my way," said the Navy reservist, who served tours in Spain and Kuwait and was on active duty between 1989 and 1994.

Earlier this year, the family was chosen to receive a home renovation courtesy of Rebuilding Oakland County, an organization that does work on homes for low-income individuals, active-duty military members and veterans

On Wednesday, the home in Milford was a flurry of activity with 20 volunteers replacing windows and rotting overhangs, building flower boxes and painting the exterior and more.

"The reason we do it is because we know we have individuals in the community who have been here most of their lives and have been



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contributing members of the community who through no fault of their own it might be a death or a financial situation — who can't work on their property any more," said Al Kaczkowski, executive director of Rebuilding Together Oakland County.

Founded in 1992, the organization has helped more than 700 families in southeast Michigan — most from Oakland County — and provided \$6 million in services, said Kaczkowski.

The organization partnered with Sears and Craftsman, which is on its own tour across the country renovating 20 homes. The Fredericksens' home is the only stop in Michigan.

Most of the work was completed in April, with finishing touches wrapping up Wednesday afternoon.

For his part, Fredericksen said he never expected to be chosen for a renovation when he and his wife applied to the program.

"I don't look to the payback. It's my privilege to serve my country and I don't expect any payback for it," he said. "But when something like this happens, it's just, wow."

To apply or volunteer:

Rebuilding Together Oakland County is recruiting volunteers to work on home repairs, particularly in the Southeast corner communities of the county. For more information on how to volunteer or to apply for home repairs from Rebuilding Together Oakland County, visit www.rebuildingtogether-oaklandcounty.org or call (248) 432-6551.

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Volunteers Grayden Young, 11, and Bill Albers build flower boxes at the . (Daniel Mears/The Detroit News)





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