

GLADSTONE DISPATCH

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Rebuilding Together.
Kansas City

Gladstone homes improved by Rebuilding Together Kansas City

By City of Gladstone

When Pastor Clay McQuerry moved back to Missouri, he saw a need in the Northland. He had previously worked with a national organization called Christmas in April that provided services to seniors, veterans, low-income families and people with disabilities.

On a single day each April, thousands of volunteers worked to make home improvements and modifications that helped the elderly remain living at home and age in place by providing free services. In 2001, McQuerry founded what is known today as Rebuilding Together Kansas City.

Since its inception, RTKC has worked with 6,900 volunteers repairing more than 900 homes with a repair

value of \$3 million. Their typical clients are low- to medium-income homeowners, veterans and seniors who don't have funds available for urgent repairs or safety modifications. In 2018, two-thirds of their clients had incomes averaging \$17,946 annually.

RTKC strives to help Northland residents live independently and safely at home and in their communities. They have two programs to accomplish this mission: Rebuilding Day and Safe at Home.

Rebuilding Day is a one-day blitz that utilizes hundreds of volunteers to assist with free repairs on homes in their community. Applications are received throughout the year and volunteer crew leaders meet in July to select their houses. In one day, they will complete essential repairs on

20 to 25 homes.

As a communitywide organization, anyone can volunteer to help with repairs, and the volunteers who assist with repairs see the instant impact of helping people stay in their homes.

Since 2011, the city of Gladstone has been involved with and supported Rebuilding Together KC through the Gladstone Economic Betterment Council and the Gladstone Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. RTKC Board President and City of Gladstone Community Development Administrator Alan Napoli has volunteered to assist with the planning, building and permits needed for these homes for the past six years. RTKC's 2020