

WINTER 2023

# BLUEPRINT

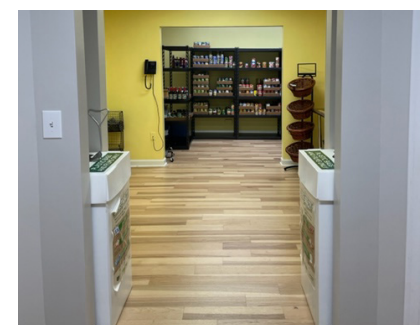
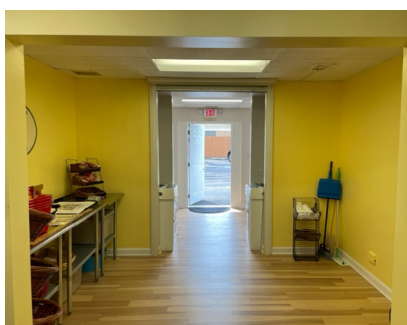


**Volunteers**  
**Repairing Homes.**  
**Restoring Hope.**

**Missions Impossible.** To boldly go where no volunteers have gone before. Mixed references but they sum up our efforts in the months since our last Blueprint. Our volunteers are exceptional DIYers—beyond that, either fearless or stupid, or maybe a little of both. We accepted challenges that we had no direct experience with; work that was physically demanding (we're mostly old retired guys) requiring skills more properly left to special trades.

That has never stopped us from helping others where we can, as we answer the question "How tough can that be?" Equally, we are motivated by the incredible generosity of our grantors and donors. Thanks to you, and our volunteers, some very deserving folks are beneficiaries of our willingness to tackle tough projects.

**Food for Thoughtful.** The Barrington Township Food Pantry was a patchwork of small rooms and inefficient traffic flow. Located on the lower level of the township building, it was confusing and disruptive to people entering for township services and those needing food. Pantry administrator, Patrice Miller, said enough! and reached out to the Barrington Area Community Foundation (BACF) and The Build Team to create a facility that made sense. BACF generously funded the pantry and The Build Team and added a sizable extra amount for our collaboration.

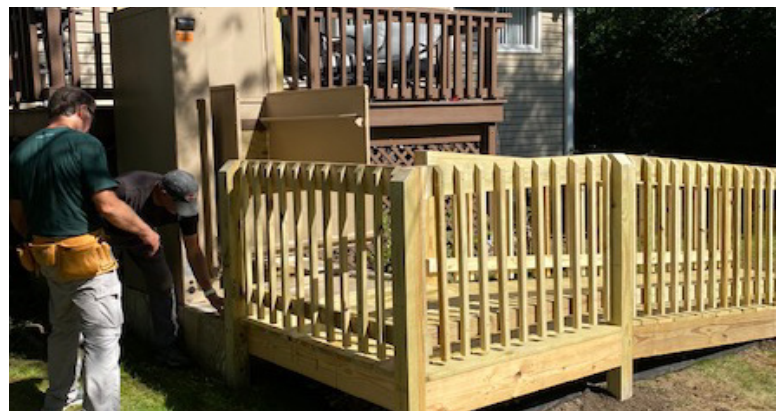
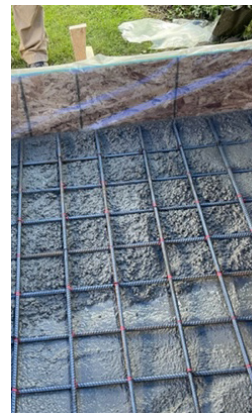




### Food for Thoughtful cont.

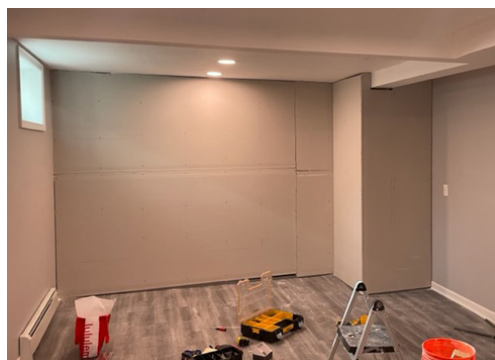
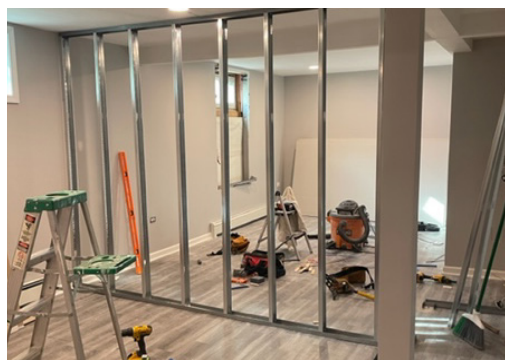
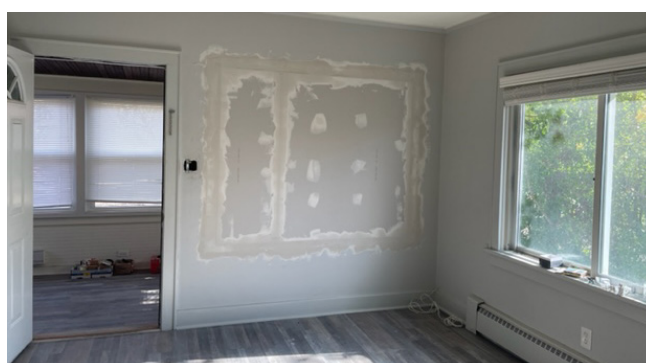
Others stepped up and added valuable assets to the project as well: Richard Smith donated architectural services; Steve and Kerry Miller donated a rollup entry door; Steve Nuzzo, US Refrigeration, donated a commercial refrigerator and freezer; Zack Sicher, Identiti, created a colorful sign for the entryway. The food pantry is now a bright, cheery, efficient resource that our community shares with those who need a little help

**Elevated Effort.** What business do a bunch of old guys have pouring a five -thousand-pound block of concrete? Well, to create a base for an elevator, of course. And who has experience installing an elevator? None of us, but an ALS patient needed one to access her lower patio and yard so we decided to just build her one. First, we had to find an 8,000-dollar wheelchair elevator that we could get for free. Done. Then get almost three tons of cement mix in 80-pound bags and the (heavy steel) elevator to the site. Done. Then: Mix. Pour. Add rebar. Assemble the elevator. Run electrical. Build a ramp. All Done. Done. Done. And done. Whew! We actually pulled it off and our new friend with ALS is all grins.





**Wingin' It.** A safe house for WINGS was very nice for the families they take under their wing, but it was often one bedroom short for mothers who had three or more children. A large, enclosed front porch was considered to be the logical choice for an additional bedroom but our assessment proved that to be impractical. We did proceed with improvements to make that space more livable and useful. Still, the bedroom need remained. We asked ourselves, "Why not put the bedroom in the finished basement we completed a couple of years ago?" That made perfect sense because there already was a full bathroom down there. Simple? Not quite. Every bedroom requires two exits (safety code), one must be to the outside of the building—a window. Undaunted (the elevator team, again), said, let's cut a hole in the foundation and install an egress window. Then partition the basement and create a bedroom. We're almost done with this latest challenge. The window-well dug. The foundation cut. Window in. The partition wall and closet built. Paint and trim next. It's a suite deal! Send money. We'll keep going.





**Side Show.** A very nice Barrington home had siding that was badly weathered. Birds pecked large holes in the rotting wood and water was leaking into the lower floor. The owners, well into their 90s, didn't have the resources to repair the siding. A conscientious neighbor (a Build Team volunteer) and the Barrington Area Council on Aging (BACOA), petitioned The Build Team to fix the problem. It was time we volunteers learned how to do siding so, we stepped up—to the lower roof, pulled off the rotted siding, resealed the structure with Tyvec, replaced all the old siding with LP Smart Siding, painted it with matching color, caulked and said, "Nothing intimidates The Build Team."

(More volunteers should have this much fun. Sign up on our website.)



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**Less is More.** Smaller, less intimidating but no less essential projects that we have addressed in the last several months are these: do safety repairs to a deck and deck stairs that were a concern for a mother in Lakemore; fix plumbing problems for a single mother in Elgin; fix leaky windows on a manufactured home for a woman with limited mobility; do exterior painting for Citizens For Conservation at Hill N' Dale Farm and help mitigate plumbing problems on their property dwellings.

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***We couldn't continue to share these wonderful stories without your support.  
By using volunteer labor, a small amount of money will fund a large project.  
Please consider a contribution to The Build Team this Holiday Season.***

Donations can be made online at [thebuildteam.org](http://thebuildteam.org) or by check to the corporate office.  
All donations are fully tax deductible

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