

FALL 2021

BLUEPRINT



Volunteers
Repairing Homes.
Restoring Hope.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the bounty that's so abundant for most of us and how we're blessed with the means to help others less fortunate.

In 2017, you generously donated through The Build Team to support the Barrington Area Hurricane Relief effort in Houston. Every dollar of that donation went to help families in Houston. While The Build Team organized the work-on-the-ground in Houston to put that money to work, we were at the same time meeting our local mission here in our community.

Since 2013 we have been doing just that, having completed fifty projects for homeowners in need, and we are continuing to do so despite challenges imposed by COVID and, more recently, a serious lack of funding. Our go-to charitable foundations and churches, very generous in the past, have put donations on hold pending a full recovery from the pandemic.

Still, we have completed five projects since our last publication in February (details below) and several more are approved to start. A mother under treatment for cancer and burdened with medical bills has requested we turn an unfinished basement into a playroom for her young son—that is in our wheelhouse and squarely within our mission. A widow in Ingleside needs kitchen repairs and two other homeowners-in-need will be getting window replacements following our winter retreat to indoor work.

The Build Team is on the radar of many social services in Lake, McHenry, and Cook counties. Requests are flowing in but our ability to respond positively is dependant on having adequate resources—money and volunteers! Please, contribute to our mission. Volunteer. Make a donation. Or both.

Our website thebuildteam.org can process credit card donations and any messages of volunteer support. Send checks to The Build Team, 119 Joan Dr., Barrington, IL 60010.

RECENT PROJECTS

While the snow still fell, we began another renovation for WINGS. An unused parsonage was made available as a residence for a mother with three children but it needed to be made family ready. We built a safety banister for the open stairwell, laid a new kitchen floor, patched cracked walls and ceilings, painted the interior, and paid to have all the carpeting cleaned by a service.



An aging artist with advanced glaucoma was unable to continue working, The home's septic system was in danger of backing up and the hot water was smelly and black. We had his septic tank pumped out and replaced the anode rod in the water heater. Flushable toilets and clean water are essentials that most homeowners can take for granted. Now this homeowner can, too.

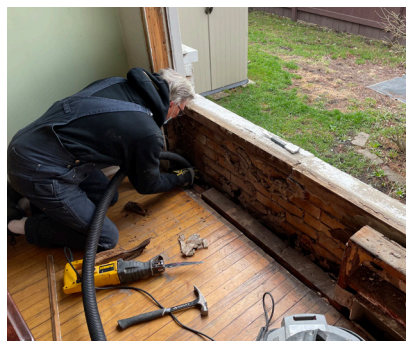
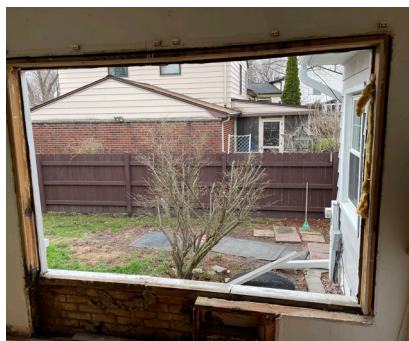
Schaumburg social services brought the needs of this homeowner to our attention. A leaky shower drain caused water damage to the bathroom and garage ceiling below. Electrical outlets were dead in two rooms. Toilet seals were leaking. A sliding door to the back porch had not been properly trimmed with brick molding. The front door storm door couldn't close due to damage to the threshold. Everything's now shipshape.

(Often we get so focused on the repairs we forget to take pictures...any volunteers?)

A homeowner in Hoffman Estates qualified for repairs to her covered back porch. The roof leaked and water damaged the roof, porch floor, railing, and stairs. The garage fascia was also rotting and needed replacing. The repairs were extensive and required skilled carpentry prior to a lot of scraping, sanding, and painting. Fortunately, we found three new and very experienced volunteers who saved the day. Our team also tackled a new challenge—rolled roofing. Actually pretty easy and kinda fun despite a 95-degree day.



A couple in Palatine had two large, poorly installed windows that ultimately failed—sills and under-walls were rotting. The husband was disabled and repairs were beyond their means. We stepped in and redid the framing, restructured the sills for drainage, and replaced both windows. In addition, we trimmed unfinished sliding doors to the deck with brick molding and repaired and painted damaged interior walls.



Two women were living in an older home with many serious problems. They were upbeat, positive personalities in spite of their home needing a new roof, new windows, plumbing repairs—that's an understatement. The bathtub and kitchen sink didn't drain; dishes had to be done in the bathroom lavatory and bathing required bailing the tub water into the toilet. Oh, the backdoor wouldn't close properly, they had no working stove, and refrigeration was limited to two small units that friends had donated. Fortunately, the roof will be done by pros as an insurance claim, TBT got drains open, damaged pipes replaced, new kitchen sink installed, and windows on order for Spring.



TOOL TIME

Thanks again to the **Barrington Area Community Foundation** The Build Team received a generous tool grant. Last year the grant was for a new dump trailer—this year, cordless tools. A difficulty we frequently encounter is finding power outlets for tools but the new brushless motors and powerful batteries have made cordless power tools practical. Many of our volunteers are tool geeks anyway and this has made them very happy and very productive.

