



WINTER 2016

# The Toolbox

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- President/CEO,** Katharine Dixon
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- Office Manager,** Ann Nguyen
- Bookkeeper,** Barbara Jeanne Polo

## National Rebuilding Day is just around the corner!

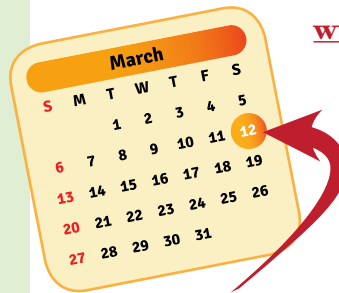
We have already seen 109 Alexandria residents, including elderly, disabled, veterans, and families with children, in need of safe and healthy home repairs. Please help us serve these vulnerable neighbors!

Grab your co-workers and friends, sponsor a team, and make repairs with our help on April 30th. If you are skilled or not-as-skilled, we need you! We are happy to talk to you about employee engagement opportunities and the great experience our volunteers have with the homeowners they are helping! Visit our website for a sponsorship form:

[www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org](http://www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org)

or call us for more information.

**703.836.1021**



**House Captain & Team Leader meeting is MARCH 12<sup>th</sup>**



## Gumball Memories

Alexandria holds a lifetime of memories for Bernadette. She is the last of three generations to call the city home.

She fondly remembers the colorful gumballs in the gumball machine and the elevator in the furniture store that her family owned on King Street—the only one in the city at the time. They sold the store in the early 60's, but it shaped her perspective on how the city has grown and changed.

Bernadette has seen the city expand and grow in affluence. When she was young, she recalled many boarded up buildings and not being able to walk far alone. She also relishes the renaissance of Del Ray, where she lived for some time. Although the city is a stronger and more vibrant community, the growth has also meant higher costs of living.

Her family has mostly

passed now, but she still has many friends and her beloved dog, which keep her rooted here. She really wants to be around when her friend's children have children.

Her home is her haven where her friends visit often, hanging out on her patio and enjoying the neighborhood. Bernadette's favorite room though is her photo-filled living room. But on her waitress salary, it is difficult to afford the upkeep on her home.

That's why when her best friend's son referred her to Rebuilding Together Alexandria, she immediately reached out. Every day, we work to preserve housing affordability and revitalize the Alexandria community by providing free, safe, and healthy home repairs to people like Bernadette. Throughout the year, we work with low-income, elderly and/

or disabled homeowners to identify issues in their homes. Then our teams of volunteers—many from local businesses and churches—provide the fixes and upgrades.

At Bernadette's, our volunteer team caulked the bathroom, fixed a broken window pane, hung blinds, patched a hole in the wall and showed her how to replace her air conditioner filter. In addition, we arranged for a plumber to fix her leaky sink. Bernadette feels good about the changes to her house, commenting, "Rebuilding Together is awesome...and everyone is so nice."

By improving our clients' housing conditions, we can help them remain active members of their neighborhood and in turn help our city remain economically, socially and culturally diverse.

### *From the Desk of Katharine*

As I look at the year ahead, I am so proud of what our volunteers and funders have enabled us to accomplish last year. Because of the projects we completed in 2015, neighbors live in safe and healthy homes, communities have gardens to grow their own food, children have safe areas in which to play, seniors have improved facilities to attend, and whole neighborhoods have been revitalized.

Though we have helped many people, we still have plenty of work to do in 2016 and hope you will be there with us!

When individuals and families live in neighborhoods with safe and healthy housing they can afford, with enhanced communal spaces, they put down roots, which then creates the opportunity for community stability

and more socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhoods throughout Alexandria...our ultimate vision.

Thank you for believing in our vision!

*Katharine*



 Rebuilding Together.  
Alexandria



 Rebuilding Together.  
Alexandria

## UPCOMING PROJECT DATES

- Feb TBD:** *A Home of Your Own* project day
- March 12:** *Team Leader/House Captain* meeting
- April 29:** *CBRE* project day
- April 30:** *National Rebuilding Day*
- May 10:** *Fannie Mae* project day
- May 11:** *Fannie Mae* project day
- May 13:** *Fannie Mae* project day

## Become a Circle of Neighbors Member

As a member of the *Circle of Neighbors*, you can be proud to be among those working in our community to provide free repairs to those homeowners who simply do not have the means to maintain their homes. Members make a lasting, sustainable impact and restore individual and neighborhood pride by preserving home affordability in Alexandria. Membership in this giving circle is awarded to all those who make generous contributions each fiscal year of \$250 or more.

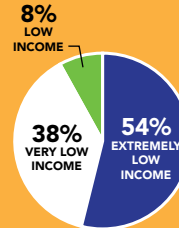
## Get Involved!

We are looking for members to join:

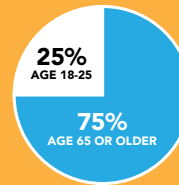
- **Development Committee:** responsible for the planning, supervision and coordination of all fundraising efforts; meets as needed.
- **Mod squad team:** tackles misc. repair projects throughout the year—they tend to be small but skilled projects, like installing a handrail or fixing a broken outlet.
- **Raise a Roof Committee:** plans our annual fall fundraising event. Meets as needed.



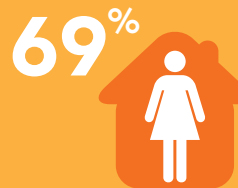
Our clients have **2.3** people living at home, with a household income of just **\$31,116**



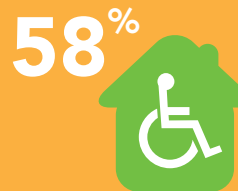
**54%** of clients are extremely low income, **38%** very low income, **8%** low income.



**75%** clients are age 65 or older, **25%** 18-64.



A female heads **69%** of homes served by us.



**58%** of our clients state that they are disabled.



Over **23,000** volunteers have worked on more than **1,800** projects since 1986.



Market value to date of in-kind contributions given to the community exceed **\$7 million**.





700 Princess Street, Suite 206  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## REBUILDING HOMES. *Revitalizing Alexandria.*

### Housing Veterans!

In December, we partnered with the *City of Alexandria* and *New Hope Housing* to rehab a townhouse that is now called 'home' by three formerly homeless veterans (one of whom was living in his car). **Tech Painting Co.** donated professional painters who joined 10 other volunteers to make upgrades and repairs. A huge 'thank you' to everyone involved!

