



BEST PRACTICES in AFFORDABLE HOUSING



PRESERVATION OF EXISTING HOUSING STOCK

WHO

Rebuilding Together Alexandria

WHERE

Alexandria, Virginia



WHAT

Rebuilding Together is a nationwide home repair and rehabilitation initiative dedicated to keeping low-income homeowners living in safety, warmth, and independence through volunteer services. RTA Alexandria provides home improvement and repair services to low-income homeowners who cannot maintain their homes, as well as nonprofit facilities. Some of the most common types of homeowners are the elderly, persons with disabilities, veterans, and families with children. Rebuilding Together Alexandria impacts the overall quality of life for residents in the City of Alexandria in many ways including maintaining affordable housing, revitalizing communities, and stabilizing low and moderate-income areas by eliminating urban blight in many neighborhoods.

HOW

To be considered for home assistance, candidates must complete and submit an application form and provide documentation of total household income, such as tax forms or pay stubs. Some of our clients are referred through congregations, schools, community agencies and service groups, or by self-referral.

RTA Alexandria staff then conduct a house visit to create a preliminary scope of work for potential repairs giving emergency repairs and safety issues priority. If a volunteer team and monetary and/or material resources can be acquired for a project, then the House Captain will determine which repairs the team will be able to perform on the client's home. Emergency repairs usually include plumbing, electrical, roofing, and heating and hot water work and safety repairs include grab bars and hand rails, wheelchair ramps, smoke/CO2 detectors and door/window locks. RTA Alexandria also sometimes provides energy efficiency repairs such as weather stripping, caulking and insulation as well as general repairs such as patching cracks and holes, painting, and yardwork.

Since 1986, RTA (formerly Christmas in April) has been committed to donating home repairs to the in-need families of Alexandria. They have worked on over 1,600 projects throughout the City with the help of 21,000+ volunteers to pursue their vision of Alexandria as a vibrant community where people of all walks of life and cultures live in safe and healthy homes.

