



Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun
1826 W. Broadway Rd., #16
Mesa, Arizona 85202
480-774-0237

WWW.RTVOS.ORG

IMPACT REPORT

2021



Rebuilding Together

Valley of the Sun



DEAR [RE]BUILDER,

Sad yet hopeful.

As we wrapped up our fiscal year, I was saddened because the world is still in turmoil, we weren't able to help as many people as we have in the past, and are still unable to mobilize large volunteer groups to support community revitalization efforts.

But even with those obstacles, I remain hopeful because of you.

Throughout this national health crisis, you have remained faithful. You have supported the work of Rebuilding Together however you could, and I am grateful.

Your steadfastness keeps us motivated to keep moving forward, helping those with the greatest needs.

Your volunteer efforts helped many who felt hopeless. Your kind words and moral support have given me joy. Your financial support has helped weather the storm.

For all of these things, Thank You.

With deep appreciation,

Kelly Watson
Executive Director

In 2021, we challenged ourselves to improve our impact on the communities and neighbors we serve. For that reason, we moved away from simply measuring the outputs of our work and shifted our focus to the outcomes of the repairs we provided to our clients across all communities.

To maximize the social impact achieved through our repairs, we shifted our service model to deliver services designed to intentionally and effectively address as many of the social determinants of health for each homeowner as possible. This meant not only providing critical and necessary repairs -- from single-visit fall prevention services to whole-home renovations -- but also providing access and referrals to a network of service providers.

Through this process, we found:

- Seven in ten people who received repairs from Rebuilding Together report low or no chance of falling
- Nearly two-thirds who reported their health was less than good prior to repairs said their health improved after the repairs were completed
- Almost nine in ten of the most stressed homeowners served now feel less stress about home repairs and maintenance
- Nine in ten older adults who received repairs now plan to age in place
- Three in five homeowners who received repairs say their homes are more valuable as an asset
- Families reported an increased ability to pay for daily necessities
- More than a quarter of neighbors served felt an increased connection within their community
- The majority of neighbors expressed feeling increased pride in their home

These findings confirm what we have heard for years when talking to our neighbors. The work of Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun is having a positive impact on physical and mental health, improving safety and independence, and enhancing the upward mobility and community connection of our neighbors in need.

We know, however, there is more work to be done. We are launching targeted programs that will invest directly in the long-term well-being of our neighbors. We are optimistic about the bright future of our communities and incredibly grateful for your partnership and support of our mission. Together we can be part of the solution to rebuild our underserved neighborhoods and work toward inclusive, affordable, safe, and thriving communities.



OUR PARTNER

THE THUNDERBIRDS ALWAYS GIVING BACK

On a warm Saturday morning in late September, cars began to roll up at three different mobile home parks spread throughout the eastern portion of the Valley of the Sun.

In those locations, three older adult homeowners had been patiently waiting for a wheelchair ramp since the pandemic began.

For months they had been confined to their homes due to stay-home orders and a lack of accessibility, but today that would change.

The Thunderbirds had arrived and June, Tom, and Frank were all getting their bridge to freedom.

If you aren't from Phoenix, you may not have heard of The Thunderbirds, but I'll bet you've heard of the group's signature special event, the WM Phoenix Open, known as the "greatest show on grass", and a premier annual stop on the PGA tour.

As you would expect, this event draws thousands of visitors to the Phoenix area each January, adding millions of dollars to the local economy.

What may surprise you is that millions of dollars generated through this event go straight back to the community in the form of grants to area nonprofits.

The Thunderbirds have given close to \$150 million to charities, including Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun, in the event's 86-year history.

But that Saturday wasn't about giving money – it was about giving of self.

As volunteers arrived, only 10 per site to maintain social distancing, there was a distinct feeling of excitement and determination in the air.

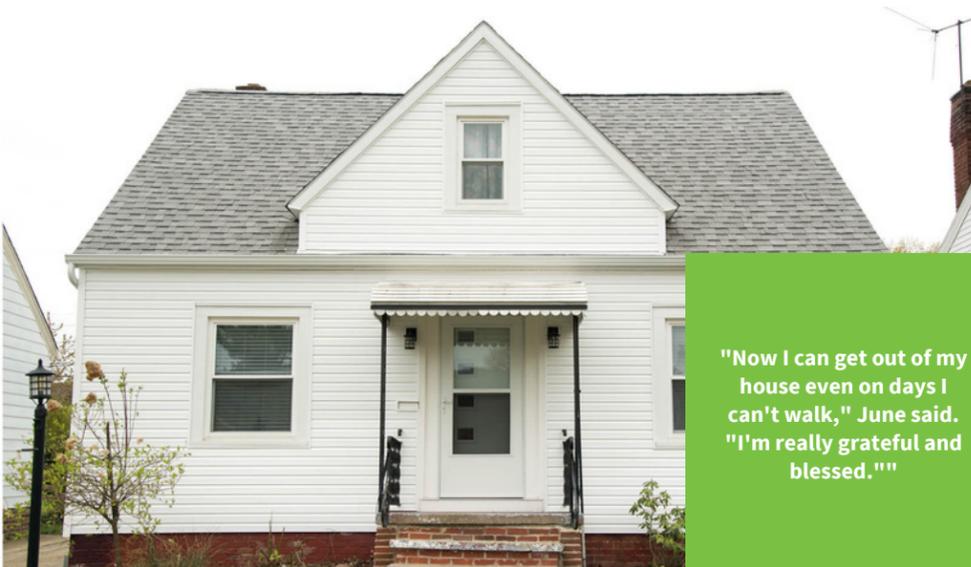


Most of the volunteers had never done this type of construction and were eager to get started under the leadership of RTVOS' skilled ramp leaders.

They donned their masks, grabbed their power tools, and began.

A few hours later, three seniors had a wheelchair ramp installed at their homes.

But it didn't stop there.



"Now I can get out of my house even on days I can't walk," June said. "I'm really grateful and blessed."

The Thunderbird volunteers saw other needs at the homes and quickly worked to make additional repairs, take care of landscaping issues, and even provide new patio furniture for one homeowner who didn't have a place to sit and enjoy the outdoors.

All eyes were on June as she drove her scooter down the ramp for the first time.

The volunteers applauded as June, with tears in her eyes, declared,

"Now I can get out of my house even on days I can't walk without falling down."

She told them how excited she is to have the freedom to check her own mail and get outside to visit with neighbors.

"I am really grateful and blessed."

And Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun, too, is grateful and blessed to have such a wonderful partnership with **The Thunderbirds**.



TOWN OF GILBERT HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED

Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun has teamed up with the **Town of Gilbert** to help families stay *Safe & Healthy* at home.

Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun and the Town of Gilbert are working together to make sure homeowners and economically disadvantaged seniors stay safe and healthy at home. Our goal is to provide no-cost customized home safety kits and perform critical home repairs for residents negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. With the help of CaresAct funding, we are serving Gilbert residents in several ways.

We've repaired HVAC systems to make sure no one suffered in an overheated home. We made home and bathroom safely

modifications so that older adults and those with mobility issues could remain safe in their own homes.

We gave 100 households **Home Safety Kits** containing a wide variety of items needed to make minor home repairs and keep their loved ones safe while sheltering at home. Items such as a tool kit, first aid kit, smoke detector, fire extinguisher, cooling towels, non-skid slippers, a night light, and diatomaceous earth for pest control.

We are grateful to partner with the Town of Gilbert in this ongoing *Safe & Healthy Home* program, enabling RTVOS to make FREE critical home repairs and install fall prevention devices for low-income Gilbert residents who are aged 60 and older and/or are living with disabilities.



PHIL'S STORY

Phil, an 85-year-old veteran, had been unable to take a shower for nearly three years. Then RTVOS stepped in.

RTVOS received a referral about an 85-year-old veteran in need of home repairs.

That's when we met Phil, confined to a wheelchair and only able to use one arm and one leg.

Phil lives alone and for the past several years, had been unable to shower. With a bathroom too small to safely maneuver his wheelchair close enough to the tiny shower to use a transfer bench, he had resigned himself to using baby wipes for his daily bath.

When a concerned neighbor reached out to us for help, we were able to respond quickly and set up a home inspection to see what we could do.

BUILDING SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ONE HOME AT A TIME

Our first meeting with Phil was truly a delight. He is the kindest man, incredibly humble, and, after our home inspection was completed, somewhat overwhelmed when we explained that we wanted to remodel his entire bathroom so he could reclaim his dignity and independence.

His first response was,

"I don't want to take any money away from someone who needs it more."

Phil was genuinely appreciative of our offer to provide free services but expressed heartfelt concern over the number of homeless individuals needing help and how our helping him would affect them.

We assured him that our funding was expressly for the purpose of helping someone like him – an honorable person who served his country for the benefit of the rest of us.

We immediately went to work on Phil's home.

We completed his bathroom rebuild, replaced moldy drywall caused from a leak in the wall, repaired his sliding doors, and provided him with a new adjustable bed.

Once we finished our work, Phil was almost speechless with gratitude.

"I just can't believe people care enough to do all this for me," he said with tears in his eyes. "This just means so much."

Please believe us, Phil. It was our honor and our pleasure to serve you.

-- RTVOS Staff & Volunteers





PARTNER WITH US

Become a partner and join us in our vision to create a safe and healthy home for every person

OUT REACH

Increase your social impact and fulfill your corporate social responsibility. When working with Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun, you will improve the lives of our neighbors in need by increasing the safety and health of their homes, building economic development opportunities, and revitalizing our communities.

ENGAGEMENT

From hands-on rebuilding projects, to employee-driven fundraising campaigns, partnering with Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun offers dynamic ways to engage your team while assisting our neighbors in need and revitalizing our communities.

IMPACT

Work with Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun to build collaborative partnerships that will help improve the lives of the 2.6 million homeowners across Arizona who live in deteriorating, physically inadequate homes that threaten their health and safety.

THE NEEDS

More than 17,500 Phoenix-area homeowners currently live in deteriorating, physically inadequate homes that threaten their health and safety (1). An aging population, veterans with disabilities returning home, and a lack of equity in underserved communities are creating a housing atmosphere where our services are greatly needed. Our work preserves critical affordable housing opportunities, and stabilizes and revitalizes neighborhoods. By collaborating with other mission-driven nonprofits, local and federal government agencies, skilled trades associations and community advocacy

groups, we can become a stronger community revitalization partner and increase the impact of our work. By working with volunteers and by investing in communities, we improve the lives of our neighbors in need by increasing the safety and health of their homes, building economic development opportunities, and revitalizing our communities. Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun relies upon the generosity of donors to carry out our work, and we can't do it without you. By joining our work, you can become a partner in the success of your community.



(1) Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Housing Survey: 2019 Phoenix - Housing Quality - All Occupied Units Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ MSA (2013 OMB definition)

Our Partners

Our partners and supporters are invested in the lives of homeowners in need and dedicated to the underserved communities we work in every day. Working together, we build collaborative relationships that help improve the lives of our neighbors living in deteriorating, physically inadequate homes that threaten their health and safety.

Thanks to the generosity of our partners and you, our committed supporters, we are moving the needle on rebuilding lives and addressing the needs of low-income homeowners living in unsafe and unhealthy homes across our state. Our efforts to rebuild lives and communities would not be possible without your continued support and commitment.

VIRGINIA G.
PIPER
CHARITABLE TRUST



Overview 2021

COMPONENTS OF A VIBRANT COMMUNITY



EQUITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Communities ensure that a person's race, gender or orientation does not determine their opportunities or outcomes for success



ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Communities provide educational opportunity, access to jobs, support community-owned businesses, and protect generational assets.



SAFE AND HEALTHY HOUSING

Community members have access to affordable housing that is dry, clean, pest-free, safe, contaminant-free, well-ventilated, maintained and thermally controlled.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND RESILIENCY

Communities create a sense of belonging, cultivate relationships, and are able to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations.



NEIGHBORHOOD, HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ACCESSIBILITY

Community members have to access to affordable food, health care, green spaces, public transportation, civic participation, and technology.

The work of Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun makes homes safer and improves the health of our neighbors

WHAT WE DO

OUR WORK INCREASES SAFETY



Eight in ten who received repairs report **low or no chance of falling** after receiving home modifications.



The majority who had trouble getting in and out of their homes prior to repairs reported **easier ingress and egress**.



Those who received repairs experience improved **home security and fire and structural safety**.

OUR WORK IMPROVES PHYSICAL HEALTH



Nearly two-thirds who reported their health was less than good prior to repair said **their health improved after receiving repairs**.



100% of those who received repairs found **bathing easier than before**, which increased the potential for improved hygiene.



For families receiving repair or replacement of kitchen appliances, it contributed to **improved nutrition**.

OUR WORK IMPROVES MENTAL HEALTH



Three in five homeowners reported **feeling happier** after receiving repairs.



The vast majority of seniors who had trouble getting in and out of their homes prior to repairs reported **increased feelings of freedom and independence afterwards**.



Neighbors who received repairs experienced improved **feelings of home security and fire safety**.

OUR WORK FOSTERS INDEPENDENCE



Nine in ten older adults who received repairs **plan to age in place**.



Half of neighbors who had experienced a fall in the six month before repairs felt **low or no chance of falling** after receiving repairs.



Nearly a third of neighbors who received repairs said they found **cooking and preparing meals easier** after the repairs were complete.

OUR WORK INCREASES UPWARD MOBILITY



Families who received repairs reported **increased ability to pay for daily necessities**.



More than 75% of homeowners who received repairs **plan to pass their properties to family or friends**.



Three in five homeowners who received repairs say **their homes are now more valuable as an asset**.

OUR WORK INCREASES COMMUNITY CONNECTION



More than 50% of older adults who received repairs felt an **increased connection with their community**.



Homeowners who received repairs felt **our work made a difference in their neighborhood or community**.



The majority of homeowners who received repairs expressed **feeling greater pride in their home**.

Become a [Re]Builder[®]

Rebuilding Together.



From the beginning Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun has been about hardworking people willing to help their neighbors.

Our volunteers are the backbone of our everyday work. The investment of your time and resources will make a difference! We want to empower you. We want to provide you with opportunities to have a long-lasting impact on the lives of your neighbors by repairing their homes and revitalizing your community.

Our network also relies on skilled trade and professional volunteers to serve as leaders in our rebuilding efforts, providing materials and technical know-how with everything from roofing and plumbing, to assessment and planning. Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun is a GuideStar Platinum-rated organization.

Please contact us at kelly@rtvos.org if you have questions about major gifts, planned giving and other giving options such as the Combined Federal Campaign, matching gifts and gifts of stock.

As we rebuild homes, community spaces and nonprofit facilities, our lasting impact helps to stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods across the country. **There are many ways that you can help!**



DONATE THROUGH WORKPLACE GIVING
By asking your employer to match your donation to Rebuilding Together, you can double the value of your gift.



DONATE ONLINE
Make a donation through our secure donation page.



MAKE A STOCK GIFT
Reduce your taxes and do a good deed at the same time.



SUPPORT REBUILDING TOGETHER VIA AMAZON SMILE
Customers can now elect to donate 0.5 percent of any Amazon purchase to Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun.



DONATE USING THE ARIZONA STATE TAX CREDIT CAMPAIGN
RTVOS is a Qualified Charitable Organization for State Tax purposes. QCO #20246.