Building a Healthy Neighborhood

Rebuilding Together

Rebuilding Together is a leading national nonprofit in safe and healthy housing. Together, with our corporate and community partners, we transform the lives of thousands of low-income homeowners by improving the safety and health of their homes and revitalizing our communities.

Building a Healthy Neighborhood

Rebuilding Together’s signature event, Building a Healthy Neighborhood, was born out of the fundamental belief that, by focusing on one neighborhood at a time, local affiliates could increase the safety and health of entire communities. Rebuilding Together is strengthening neighborhoods across the country house by house, block by block with the support of corporate partners, community leaders, nonprofits, healthcare providers, educational institutions, and local and federal government officials.

Building a Healthy Neighborhood Impact

Since 2011, Rebuilding Together has implemented Building a Healthy Neighborhood initiatives in Denver, Philadelphia, Columbus, Nashville, St. Louis and Cleveland. These partnerships have:

- Engaged over 4,000 volunteers
- Impacted thousands of community members through 100 projects, including homes, community centers, community spaces, playgrounds and art installations
- Invested more than $3 million in market value
- Partnered with over 40 nonprofits and civic organizations
- Engaged dozens of local and federal officials and policymakers to bring attention to the needs of the community

For more information about Building a Healthy Neighborhood, visit: rebuildingtogether.org/building-healthy-neighborhood
Building a Healthy Neighborhood: Baltimore

In September, Building a Healthy Neighborhood is heading to the Govans community along the York Road Corridor in Baltimore.

Since 1989, Rebuilding Together Baltimore has been a staple in the community, serving 35 Baltimore neighborhoods and repairing over 1,400 homes. Rebuilding Together Baltimore will build on their success to date, through the implementation of Building a Healthy Neighborhood.

Govans/York Road Corridor

Located in northeast Baltimore, the Govans/York Road Corridor area contains numerous historic neighborhoods. York Road is widely seen as a historic dividing line of race and class.

Wilson Park/Northern in Govans is the focus for the project this year. The Wilson Park/Northern Association was formed in 1982 as a result of the merger between the Wilson Park and Northern neighborhoods.

Wilson Park is named for Harry Wilson, who began developing the community by building houses in 1917 and was one of the city’s first black bankers offering mortgages to Wilson Park homebuyers. Many of the homes still feature the original wood frame houses designed by Mr. Wilson.

The Northern neighborhood was home to working and middle class second generation Americans and as the times evolved, African Americans. Hailing from the neighborhood are such notable residents as civil rights lawyer Charles Ewbank Tucker Dearing and Lloyd Bowers, a former Baltimore City School Board Commissioner.

At its height, Govans was a shopping hub that attracted thousands of customers throughout Baltimore and the surrounding metropolitan area. The 2008 financial crisis had a strong economic impact on many Govans residents, forcing them into foreclosure.

Govans Neighborhood Population:
- 90% Black/African American
- 1.7% Two or more races
- 1.3% Hispanic/Latino

Govans Socioeconomic Breakdown:
- Median Household income: $34,527
- 18% of Govans residents live below the federal poverty line
- 55% of homes in Govans are owner occupied

In May of 2015, a comprehensive plan for the York Road commercial corridor was passed through the Baltimore City Department of Planning. Rebuilding Together’s work in the Govans area will complement the recommendations made through the comprehensive plan to transform this area into a vibrant, revitalized community.

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**When:**
- September 9: community resource fair
- September 10: Race2Rebuild run to remember 5k and 11k
- September 11: Building a Healthy Neighborhood project day and business to business summit
- September 12: Building a Healthy Neighborhood project day and business to business summit

**Where:**
Govans Neighborhood, along the York Corridor in Baltimore, MD

**Why:**
As a neighbor you can play a part in the revitalization of this historic neighborhood by investing in our efforts and helping us build a stronger, safer, thriving and healthy community. Join our growing list of corporate partners like Lowe's and Wells Fargo and community partners like the York Road Partnership, and nonprofits like Habit for Humanity revitalize the Govans neighborhood. Leverage the successful community revitalization practices of Rebuilding Together. This year we hope to implement the following programs at Building a Healthy Neighborhood:

- **Community resource fair:** Engage nonprofits and community service providers; such as healthcare institutions, workforce development programs and educational institutions to provide complimentary information to Govans residents
- **Safe and healthy home repairs:** Provide critical repairs to increase the safety and health of homeowners and improve the value of homes in the area
- **Race2Rebuild:** Run to Remember 5k and 11k: Integrate an athlete-based fundraising program to build awareness of our efforts and integrate a healthy community activation
- **First responders:** In honor of the National Day of Service, September 11th, engage first responders in the improvement of the neighborhoods they serve
- **Small Business initiatives:** Renovate small businesses in the neighborhood to increase economic impact
- **Art installations:** Partner with local art organizations to increase and preserve the presence of art and culture in the Govans neighborhood
- **Handyman teams:** Provide lighter touch projects to impact more homeowners
- **Oral history:** Connect generations and preserve the stories of the community by working with local youth groups and schools to record important stories about the history of the area
- **Business to Business summit:** Bring together community partners, corporations and housing thought leaders from around the country to study Building a Healthy Neighborhood and share best practices in Corporate Social Responsibility
- **And more!**

To find out how you can be a part of this collaborative community investment project, please contact Tai Phoenix at (202) 518-3109 or tphoenix@rebuildingtogether.org.