Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley

[Re]Building News

Spring 2019

Safe homes and communities for everyone

90-year-old East San Jose Homeowner Gets Heat for the Holidays!

By Deb McClellan

When Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley learned that potential client, Jessie, had been sitting in a back room of her home with an electric blanket as her only source of heat for over a month, we knew we had to act immediately.

Last December, East San Jose homeowner, Jessie called RTSV to apply for no cost home repairs as her furnace had been red-tagged and disconnected in November. Construction Service Manager, Kevin met Jessie and assessed what was needed to keep her safe and warm, and he quickly realized her home repair needs outweighed our funding availability. When Contractor **AAA Furnace & Air Conditioning** learned of Jessie's plight, they stepped in and generously agreed to install a new furnace for Jessie at no cost on December 27, 2018.

Jessie noted, "My prayers have been answered! This is going to be the best Christmas ever!"

Jessie is originally from Beaumont, Texas, and moved to California in 1956. She surrounded herself with children and ran a daycare for 30 years, raising 6 sons of her own—2 of which are Air Force and Army veterans. She has been living alone since 1986, though both a son and a brother who live in San Jose and a caretaker visit often. Jessie struggles with a variety of health complications that severely limit her day-to-day life, and now uses a walker and wheelchair to get around. Her home has received Safe at Home upgrades and has been selected for further repairs on our April 27 Spring Rebuilding Day.

If you know of a Santa Clara County homeowner who is unable to make critical home repairs, please contact Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley at **408-578-9519**, or go to **www.rtsv.org**. When we help our long-term community members in need, they can continue to live independently, living longer, healthier lives.

RTSV in 2018:

Local homeowners directly impacted by services	764
423	Rehabilitation Projects
Clients impacted from 10 non-profit facilities	14,630
2,351	Volunteers who worked a total of 22,601 hours
Increase in home repair applications this year!	38%

"We can now be proud of our home once again. The shame we'd been under for so long because of the condition of our home was wiped away in one day by all the wonderful volunteers involved with this program. That so many people would be willing to give of their time and their toil to help an unknown neighbor in need is the very essence of kindness."

Letter from Our Board Chair:

A new year invites new goals! The demand for our services continues to increase, and we strive to meet the challenge. We will serve over 440 unduplicated homes, making over 3,500 repairs during the 2019 program year.

All of this work is based upon the continued support of a loyal team of people including over 2,300 Rebuilding Day volunteers, active Sponsors, a committed Board of Directors, and a highly dedicated staff.

This year, we have "newness" at all levels. We've added 2 staff members, 6 Board members, 15 sponsors, as well as hundreds of new volunteers. Our ongoing success is based upon the attraction and retention of the entire RTSV community – from Board leadership to funders to sponsors to volunteers to 'the glue' provided by our staff – it takes a community to build a community.

Thank you for your continued support and consider introducing us to others who share our common commitment and challenge for 2019.

Tim Dunkin, Board Chair

Meet Long-time Volunteer, Lou Calvert

By Sam Kennard

Volunteer *extraordinaire*, Lou Calvert, averages over 200 hours a year of volunteer service in our office! I sat down with him to find out a little about his motivation, thoughts on life, and much more. You can read the whole story in our March e-newsletter. Here's an excerpt.

Sam: ***How long have you been volunteering here?***

Lou: Since 2004.

Sam: How did you find out about RTSV?

Lou: As an editor at the Mercury News, we would have annual stories about "Christmas in April," [original RTSV name] and I thought that sounded like a pretty great place, so I filed it away for a later volunteering experience. When I stopped working in 2004, I tried to find "Christmas in April," but it didn't exist because of the name change! I soon found out it was called Rebuilding Together. I went over there one day and said 'hi.' And before I knew it, I met the Thursday [Safe at Home project] crew and started working with them every week.

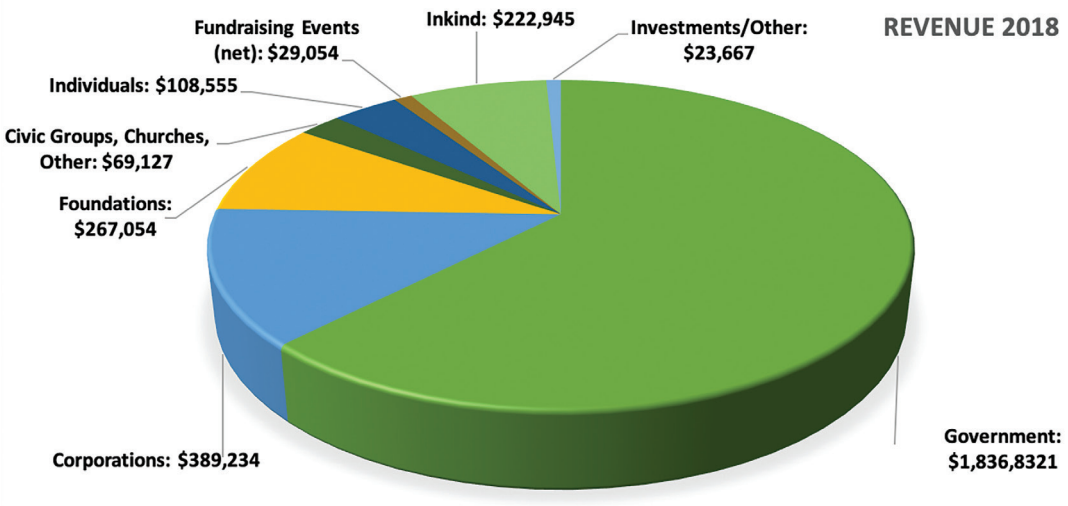
Sam: Describe the Rebuilding Together family in 3 words.

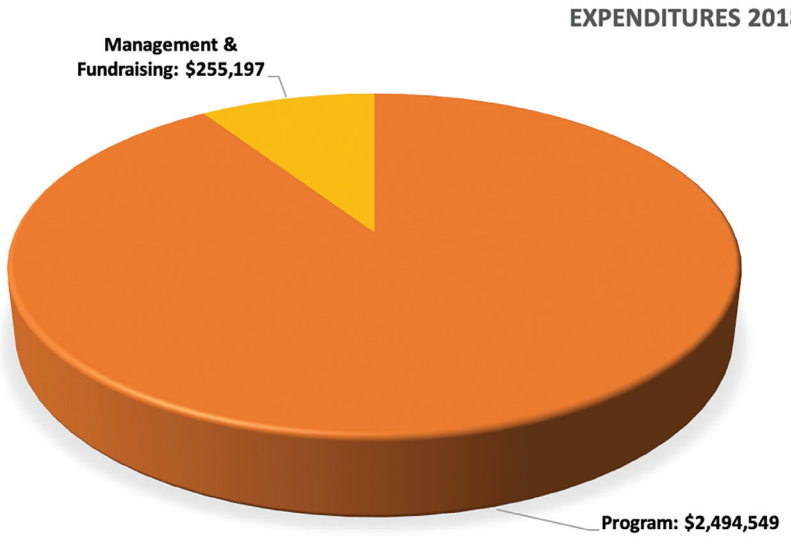
Lou: Unified for good.

Sam: Why is it important to keep people safe in their homes, in your words?

Lou: As I grow older, I realize how important home is to an individual. And the ability to stay there until I can't stay there anymore is the best thing for a human to have. I mean almost never a day goes by that I'm not appreciative of the fact that not only do I have a home, but it's got a heater, it's got water, it's got electricity. I look around this valley and there is such a need for people who can't afford even the canvas for tents that they live in. Now, I know we're doing it for people who already have a home—but we're doing it for people to be able to stay in their home, and that's really important.

2018 Increasing Financial Strength (August 2017-July 2018)





Brad McCurdy Memorial

We will miss longtime RTSV volunteer, Brad McCurdy, who passed away unexpectedly on November 14, 2018. Brad was a great friend to RTSV and served as a Leader for our Fall Rebuilding Day and as a volunteer for nearly a decade for various Rebuilding Days. Brad truly enjoyed his time volunteering with RTSV, telling Associate Director, Deanne Everton, that he had a great experience as Co-House Captain with Terry Martin. He said the only experience he could compare it to was the feeling he got when he saw the look on his kids' faces on Christmas morning. Brad was born at The Presidio into an Army family and traveled the world but attended high school and college in California. He will be greatly missed by his friends at RTSV.

Rebuilding Together
Silicon Valley

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Rebuilding Together Executive Director

Repairing homes, revitalizing communities, rebuilding lives.

Calendar of Events

Spring Rebuilding Day
Saturday, April 27

Volunteer Appreciation Event
Wednesday, May 15, 5:30 pm
San Jose Giants Game!

Paint the Town
Friday, September 20, 5:30 pm

Fall Rebuilding Day
Saturday, October 19

Follow RTSV on Facebook and social media for the latest photos and updates!
Support our programs by sharing! **@RTSiliconValley**