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Nonprofit Launches 100 Days of Service to Expand Volunteer Efforts in Chicagoland Communities

CHICAGO, III. (March 17, 2020) – On Saturday, March 20, in celebration of the kickoff of 100 Days of Service, volunteers will deliver spring home safety kits to more than 100 households in the Chicago neighborhoods of Austin and Englewood, and the southern Cook County suburb of Chicago Heights. Additional volunteer events scheduled throughout the 100 Days of Service include grocery delivery, landscaping, and skilled repairs provided by trade union members of IBEW Local 134 electricians, Local 130 UA plumbers, Roofers Local 11, Painters District Council 14, Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, and Chicago Building Trades.

When the risks associated with COVID-19 limited Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago's ability to perform interior home repairs, the organization met the challenge by broadening services to the homeowners they serve. As part of this transition, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago led an outreach effort to assess their clients' unique needs and provide valuable referrals and connections to other resources in the community. From ensuring food security, to conducting furnace and boiler check-ups with Sheet Metal Workers Local 73, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago has responded to the crisis by providing a safer, more secure home environment for area residents.

As part of this shift, the organization has expanded its annual National Rebuilding Day volunteer event into 100 Days of Service. Running from March 20 to June 27, 100 Days of Service enlists supporters in local service initiatives, volunteer opportunities, and home improvement projects for 100 families in Chicago and Cook County.

"COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Black and Latinx communities on both health and economic fronts. Those suffering the most from this pandemic are residents of the very same neighborhoods where Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago has worked for the last 29 years. We must continue to address the inequities that have been laid bare in these communities. Our 100 Days of Service initiative continues the mission of repairing homes, revitalizing communities, and rebuilding lives while keeping essential COVID-19 safety protocols in place," said Wanda Ramirez, CEO of Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago.

Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago repairs homes and revitalizes communities in Chicago and suburban Cook County. Since 1991, we have repaired 1,900 homes and 285 community facilities, with the assistance of tens of thousands of volunteers. We work in partnership with neighbors, community leaders, trade unions, service clubs, companies, and volunteers to improve Chicagoland homes and neighborhoods. Follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, and <u>Twitter</u> or visit <u>www.rebuildingtogether-chi.com/100days</u>.