



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media Contact: [Traci Hood](#)
(919) 798-9824

Southeast Raleigh Homeowner Receives Long-Awaited Home Repairs Rebuilding Together of the Triangle and Cigna team up to help local senior

December 15, 2020 (RALEIGH, NC) – A southeast Raleigh senior homeowner in need of critical home repairs is finally receiving help after months of delays due to the pandemic.

Homeowners in and around Raleigh’s Worthdale community were supposed to benefit from a large-scale, two-month community rebuilding project last spring. With Cigna as the presenting sponsor, Rebuilding Together of the Triangle (RTT) planned to announce the ambitious \$100k campaign during March of 2020. Then COVID-19 brought everything to a screeching halt.

While many businesses closed, organizations like RTT stayed busy with extra precautions in place. For several weeks, RTT temporarily shifted focus to exterior and emergency repairs, sidelining several larger projects—including some in southeast Raleigh—that would have involved major interior work and more resources.

Dan Sargent, executive director of RTT, explains that while the process of prioritizing was more challenging than ever, stopping home repairs entirely was never an option.

“We serve our community’s most vulnerable neighbors,” says Sargent. “To shelter in place within a home environment that is unsafe or unhealthy only makes folks more vulnerable.”

Such was the case for 80-year-old Gwendolyn, who has lived in her southeast Raleigh home for 45 years. Despite heart and respiratory conditions, Gwendolyn cares for her six-year-old grandson in her home on weekends. Her front steps had become unsafe and her deck was in disrepair. Her bathroom floor was on the verge of collapsing from moisture damage. She also needed electrical work, plumbing, and windows. Gwendolyn has been on RTT’s wait list for repairs since 2015.

After the 2020 springtime rebuilding campaign stalled, resources that would have gone toward homes like Gwendolyn’s had to be redirected. Or, in some cases, the funding simply disappeared.

“We did lose a few sponsors this year,” says Sargent, “so we’re especially grateful that partners like Cigna stuck with us.”

Work on Gwendolyn’s home began December 7 and will be complete by December 16. Gwendolyn describes the transformation as “a wonderful help.”

“I was afraid of my front entrance and back deck,” she says. “But now I can come and go any time, because when you’re no longer afraid of something, you don’t mind doing it.”

Her home is one of at least five southeast Raleigh homes that RTT expects to have repaired in the coming months. They are actively looking for other partners like Cigna to contribute.

“We are committed to improving the health, wellbeing and peace of mind of the Raleigh community,” said Charles Pitts, Cigna Market President for the Carolinas. “We know that housing insecurity causes stress that can seriously impact an individual’s health, and that’s why Cigna is proud to work with Rebuilding Together of the Triangle to make a lasting difference in the health and quality of life of this homeowner.”

[Rebuilding Together of the Triangle \(RTT\)](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that repairs homes, revitalizes communities, and rebuilds lives. RTT makes a sustainable impact, ensuring vulnerable homeowners live in safe, healthy homes. An affiliate of the national Rebuilding Together organization, RTT repairs more than 100 homes per year across a four-county region of Wake, Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties.

###