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Seattle Volunteers Making a Difference, One Home at a Time

**For immediate release
April 4, 2006**

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Rebuilding Together Seattle (RTS) is organizing more than 600 youth and community volunteers to fan out across Greater Seattle for Spring Rebuilding Day on Saturday, April 29, 2006. This year's Spring Rebuilding Day plans to provide free home repair services to 30 deserving homeowners and non-profit community centers.

During our Spring Rebuilding Day, teams of volunteers will spend the day building, repairing, renovating, painting, installing, and hauling to make the homes of low-income, elderly and disabled people, and families with children, safer and more livable. This year, helping non-profit community centers has been emphasized in order to better the communities it serves, as well.

For over 15 years, Rebuilding Together Seattle and its teams of community volunteers have rehabilitated more than 500 homes and community centers, and provided more than \$4 million in improvements. RTS Board President Jeanine Riordan says, "To appreciate the need that exists, you almost have to see the before and after. Believe me; those extreme makeover shows on TV have nothing on us!" Projects have ranged from building a railing so an elderly woman can safely climb her steps, to providing running water, electricity and heat for a needy family. In all situations, these free repairs dramatically affect the lives of the recipients.

Mary Lou, a typical RTS homeowner, has been confined to a wheelchair for the last 8 years due to multiple sclerosis, diagnosed in 1963. In spite of her physical challenges, her spirit has allowed her to live independently. On April 29, a team of RTS volunteers will be making her house more accessible by installing a second wheelchair ramp and moving a wall in order for her to access her washer and dryer. These vast improvements will allow Mary Lou to live independently and safely within her home.

Rebuilding Together Seattle is the Seattle affiliate of the nation's largest volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income houses and communities. RTS is a nonprofit organization that provides free home rehabilitation services, and depends on corporations, foundations, community groups, congregations, and individuals for donations. Among the major supporters of Rebuilding Together Seattle are Performance Nissan/Kia, Countrywide Home Loans, Rainier Investments, and S.D. Deacon Construction.

For more information, please email info@rtseattle.org or call 206-682-1231.