



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

April 2008

Metropolitan Washington PHCC Participates in Rebuilding Together in DC and Christmas in April in Prince George's County, MD

The Metropolitan Washington Association of Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors (MWPHCC) is used to lending a helping hand on the last Thursday in April. They have been helping with Christmas in April in Prince George's County for many years. This year they expanded their help to also include Washington, DC's program now called Rebuilding Together. Both programs rely on community volunteers to repair homes of low-income homeowners, especially elderly, disabled, and families with children in our community.

The goal with both Rebuilding Together and Christmas in April is to keep people living in warmth, safety and independence. It is estimated that nearly 75 million Americans are homeowners, however many cannot afford to make the necessary repairs or are physically unable to maintain their homes. Both of these volunteer organizations rely on dedicated volunteers to fill a desperate need, rehabilitating houses and revitalizing neighborhoods.

This year Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC received extra help from Home and Garden Television (HGTV). HGTV started a "Change the World, Start at Home" campaign with five winning cities that received extra funding and support. Viewers placed their votes to choose the cities and it was announced live at the Rose Parade on January 1, 2008 that Washington, DC was one of the winning cities focusing on the historic Anacostia area. MWPHCC members were happy to volunteer in both Maryland and DC when the need was expressed.

For example, Frank Grayton of Grayton Plumbing responded immediately that he and his co-worker Bobby Parks wanted to help wherever they were needed, either in Maryland or in Washington, DC. He stated that, he was "really looking forward to the altruistic opportunity." He has volunteered in the past and has found it to be extremely rewarding even helping with other repairs such as laying a new floor. Buckey Davis from John C. Flood remarked

that this is a great way to get involved in the community and give back to the community.

With the support of our association many homeowners now have needed repairs completed, ensuring a more safe and comfortable home. Tania Luciw of Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC called MWPHCC immediately after the work had been completed. She expressed her gratitude to our volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to help community members in need. She also wanted us to know that she received special mention from every house captain regarding the helpfulness and professionalism of our plumbers. They were very impressed with their knowledge and willingness to help at each house even with non-plumbing repairs.

The volunteer work coincides with National Plumbing Industry Week and the celebration of the 125 year anniversary of PHCC. As PHCC celebrates this historic milestone, the organization continues to be true to their mission statement: "PHCC is dedicated to the promotion, advancement, education and training of the industry for the protection of our environment and the health, safety and comfort of society." The following members are proud to serve their community and we want to thank them for their dedicated volunteer service:

Buckey Davis, Mark Crooks and Damon Hatcher of John C. Flood, Frank Grayton and Bobby Parks of Grayton Plumbing and Craig Fulmore from the Booker T Washington Public Charter School. Also, Carl Anderson of Ferguson Enterprises coordinated the donation of many parts and supplies for the repairs in Maryland. We greatly appreciate these generous donations from Ferguson Enterprises again this year to Prince George's County, MD Christmas in April.

With the current financial challenges that Americans are facing, we plan to support these programs in the future as the need will most likely continue to grow.