

Rebuilding Together Baltimore volunteers repair homes, beautify spaces in Park Circle

Baltimore, MD—Alma Lee, who will be 85 soon, bore and raised 17 children (no twins!) in her home in the Park Circle neighborhood.

She's lived in the home for over 40 years and time has taken its toll on the property. On Saturday, April 25, 2009 the Rebuilding Together Baltimore volunteer team from the Law Offices of Whiteford, Taylor and Preston revitalized her home to make it warmer, safer and drier. They scraped, painted and did some landscaping. A new fence was built and many general repairs were made to Lee's home as part of national Rebuilding Day.

Some of Lee's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even a great-great-grandson were there to lend support.

Kevin Hroblak, who was the House Captain for Whiteford, Taylor and Preston's volunteer team, has volunteered for Rebuilding Together for a number of years. Kevin is an attorney for the law

firm. It was heartwarming to walk through the Park Circle neighborhood that day and see the volunteer teams working alongside residents in the community to beautify and revitalize the neighborhood.

The "Welcome to Park Circle" median was also landscaped with flowers, plants and mulch!

Rebuilding Together Baltimore will continue to work in the Park Circle neighborhood through 2010.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2009, Rebuilding Together Baltimore's 20,000 volunteers have repaired 1,000 homes and community spaces in 30 neighborhoods. Rebuilding Together Baltimore works in partnership with communities to make homes warmer, safer, and drier for low-income homeowners. Rebuilding Together Baltimore is an affiliate of Rebuilding Together, Inc., a national organization with over 200 active affiliates across the country. www.RTBaltimore.org.



Kevin Hroblak, house captain for Whiteford, Taylor and Preston's volunteer team with Alma Lee on her front porch. Courtesy Photos



Rebuilding Together Baltimore volunteer team from the Law Offices of Whiteford, Taylor and Preston hard at work making repairs on Alma Lee's house.

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'Eco-aware' consumers recycle and save at resale stores!

Baltimore, MD—Americans recycled 3.8 billion pounds of clothing and textile waste in 2007. That is 1.7 billion pounds more than in 2000, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The numbers reflect a growing national awareness toward protecting the environment. But recycling more may not be the most important thing eco-conscious consumers can do to minimize their carbon footprint. According to the EPA, reducing and reusing products, like clothing, are the most effective way people can conserve resources and reduce pollution.

Kid to Kid, a resale franchise, pays cash for used children's and maternity items like clothing, toys, books and baby equipment. In 2008, Kid to Kid stores paid customers more than \$7.5 million to recycle their children's products.

"Protecting the environment is on the minds of a lot of people these days," said Jeff McIntrye, owner of the Kid to

Kid location in Baltimore. "Our store lets people reuse and recycle their children's things in one easy stop."

"People would rather consign, sell or donate their unwanted or unneeded items than add to the waste stream," Meyer said. "Eco-aware consumers would also rather purchase recycled articles in order to minimize their impact on our limited resources."

Kid to Kid offers an extra 20 percent to people who opt to take payment in store credit. Items the store purchases are immediately made available for sale. Between 30 and 50 percent of his customer base will choose to take store credit over cash, McIntrye said.

"They see it as a bonus to shop all the great product they were planning on buying anyway," McIntrye said. "It's all the more attractive because they know they can save money and the environment at the same time."

The Kid to Kid store in Cockeysville is part of the Kid to Kid Franchise system. Jeff McIntrye's store is located at 556 Cranbrook in Cockeysville. For more information, call 410-667-0360.