



A healthy community begins at home

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REACH Community Development Partners with National Association of Women in Construction to Provide Free Home Repairs for Local Family

Free home repair day will celebrate "Women in Construction" week

PORTLAND, Ore., February 27, 2012— [REACH Community Development](#), a nonprofit that provides affordable housing and supportive services for individuals and families, will commemorate "Women in Construction" week (March 4-10) by partnering with the Portland chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) to provide free home repairs. A nationally recognized event, Governor Kitzhaber has declared "Women in Construction Week" to celebrate the visible role that women play in Oregon's construction industry and to highlight work force equity.

On March 7, REACH's Community Builders Program staff will partner with volunteers from the NAWIC Portland Chapter to make repairs to a home in Southeast Portland. Repairs will include installation of graspable handrails in the front entry, laundry room and basement stairwell, grab bars in the kitchen and bathrooms, installation of smoke and fire alarms and general outdoor labor.

REACH's Community Builders Program (CBP) is a free home repair program available to low-income senior and disabled homeowners in Portland as well as families with children in Multnomah County who are suffering from, or at risk of developing, asthma or other environmental illnesses. The CBP program began modestly over a decade ago with a few neighbors painting three homes. In 1996, REACH formally launched the CBP in Southeast Portland to help fill the service gap created by the lack of home repair programs. By 2005, the program was expanded city-wide and in 2011 close to 400 people volunteered over 2,500 hours to support the CBP.

For additional information and eligibility requirements for the Community Builders Program, please visit <http://reachcdc.org/community-builders/request-a-home-repair/>

About REACH Community Development

For 30 years, REACH has built innovative and affordable housing for low-income families and individuals in the metropolitan region. REACH develops and manages affordable housing and provides supportive services to our residents, as well as free home repairs to senior



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homeowners. Today, REACH's portfolio includes 1,400 units including single family homes, apartment buildings and mixed-use developments located across the City of Portland. REACH has won numerous state and national awards for its creative approach to building healthy communities and its innovative housing projects. More information is available at <http://reachcdc.org>.

About the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)

The National Association of Women in Construction was established in 1953 to create a support network for women working in the construction industry. By 1955 NAWIC gained national status with approximately 200 chapters nationwide. NAWIC has worked to advance the causes of women in construction whose careers range from skilled trades to business ownership. More information is available at www.nawicportland54.org.

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