

# Newsletter

Getting involved with RTSV is easy and safe again!



Safe at Home is Back and Here to Stay!

Safe at Home is Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley's flagship monthly volunteer program, designed by our Construction Services team to work alongside groups of volunteers at the homes of our neighbors in need. Central to our vision of a safe and healthy home for everyone, Safe at Home addresses home repair and maintenance issues that may otherwise present a safety risk or that limit access to or within the home. Prior to all repairs, a qualified staff member performs an onsite needs-based assessment to identify potential home repair and maintenance tasks primarily focused on, but not limited to:

- Fall Prevention
- Aging In Place
- Accessibility/Mobility
- Home & Fire Safety
- Weatherization/Energy Efficiency

When shelter in place orders were enacted in 2020, RTSV halted our Safe at Home volunteer program in order to prioritize the health and safety of our neighbors in need. The county began rolling out vaccines and as the number of vaccinated people rose day by day, it seemed as though Covid-19 would become a distant memory. Unfortunately, this proved not to be the case, but even

while we continued to face this challenge, RTSV found that our community was more hungry than ever to get back into the field and make a difference. Thanks to your support and commitment to safe homes and communities for everyone, we were able to do just that!

This past summer, we re-launched the volunteer aspect of Safe at Home, and our monthly volunteers join us every 3rd Thursday to complete repairs for our neighbors in need.

While we celebrated the return of our volunteers, we mourned the loss of some of our most tried and true. This coming Rebuilding Day, we'll be remembering Ellen Hill, Don Snyder, and Pat Hamm--all key leaders, and so much more, of our long-standing volunteer Dream Team.



# It's A Great Time To Get Involved

By Executive Director,  
Deanne Everton



Last year RTSV celebrated 30 years of service, a milestone we reached with community support from our partners and volunteers, allowing us to continue our life-changing work since our establishment in 1991. We celebrated all year long by kicking off new programs and events, such as the RTSV Store, Paint The Town Green, and our Staff Give Back Day in December.

Want to get more involved this year? The Change Order is a group of RTSV's dedicated supporters who make a monthly contribution of any size, dedicated to helping our most vulnerable neighbors in need. Members can take pride in knowing that they are actively addressing the housing crisis, while enjoying member-only

perks, like 2 free tickets to our annual fundraiser, early access to National Rebuilding Day swag, and recognition on our Change Order web page. Joining the Change Order empowers RTSV to plan ahead, but is also just one of the ways to get involved with RTSV!

As always, at the end of April we will welcome volunteers back for National Rebuilding Day, our largest volunteer experience of the year. We'd love to see you out there on April 30th!

If you can't join us then, perhaps you can join us for our first ever RTSV Presents: The Home Team event. This will be the perfect chance to have fun together at a San Jose Giants game on June 2nd, while supporting RTSV and the life-changing work we complete. All are invited.

We've also got some innovative new programs on the horizon so look for more details soon. Don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like more information or find out more at [www.rtsv.org](http://www.rtsv.org). Thank you for your continued support.

*Deanne Everton*



## Did You Know?

During our year-long 30th anniversary celebration, RTSV launched the RTSV Store online! The RTSV Store is the perfect place to grab trendy styles so that you can wear your commitment to safe homes and communities. A portion of each purchase goes directly to our mission and keeping our vulnerable neighbors in need safe in their homes. Visit our store online at [rtsv.org](http://rtsv.org)!

## Take Action Now

The average annual income of our clients is **\$38,364**. These neighbors need our help. Financially support the Rebuilding Together mission and ask your employer to match your gift. RTSV Tax ID number: 77-0289381.

**Thank You!**



Scan me to take action and give now

## Homeowner Profile: Meet Your Neighbor, Nellie!

RTSV's work meant more than keeping her safe



There wasn't a dry eye among volunteers at the home of Nellie, a 93-year-old homeowner who has lived in San Jose for the past 30 years, during the kickoff ceremony of her project site on Fall Rebuilding Day. Once the House Captain reminded all volunteers of RTSV's safety protocols, the scope of work, and plan of action, he asked Nellie if there was anything she wanted to say. All eyes were on Nellie as she began to tell her story.

She was only 15 years old when she began working in the fields and later in a cannery. She eventually married and had 8 children. On a trip to Mexico with her husband, he abandoned all of them, and Nellie had to work hard to pick up the pieces of her life and provide a stable environment while raising her kids alone. When she was 40, she went back to school to fulfill her dream of becoming a hairdresser. Before retiring, she worked at the Norman Y. Mineta International Airport in San Jose where she even met Nancy Reagan.

Eventually, she met her second husband, and the two bought the mobile home that volunteers worked on during Fall Rebuilding Day.

"I really appreciate what you're doing for me today," Nellie began. Her voice was shaky, her eyes welling with tears. "It's been a long time for this to be done. It's been years since my son painted the house for me." Nellie looked to her daughter to help her finish their story. **"He couldn't finish it. My brother couldn't finish it because he passed away from cancer."** Nellie, her daughter, and the volunteers at her project site were in tears before Nellie found the strength to thank everyone for finishing what her son had started 10 years ago.

Volunteers came together to give the exterior of Nellie's home a fresh coat of paint. RTSV staff had already completed the urgent repairs enhanced the safety of her home by replacing siding, skirting, and windows before working on electrical updates and a stove top and oven replacement.

Nellie and her daughter were so thankful for our volunteers and the work they were completing. They expressed their gratitude every chance they could, calling our volunteers "God's angels". Her daughter even made cloth masks for each of the volunteers to take home as a gift of gratitude.

We are so incredibly thankful for Nellie who was such a gracious host to our volunteers. Thanks to your support, we were able to complete the life-changing repairs to keep Nellie safe in her home and to finish the painting job her son had started 10 years ago before his unfortunate passing.



## Leave a Legacy

Please consider RTSV when planning your legacy. There are many ways to ensure a gift will continue giving into the future: bequests in wills, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance gifts, or gifts of real estate. We would be happy to discuss any of these options. Call Deanne at 408-578-9519 to learn how your gift can last beyond a lifetime. Tax ID 77-0289381



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*"I really appreciate what  
you're doing for me  
today...I'm so happy to  
see all this happen."*

*- Nellie, 2021 Homeowner*

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## Upcoming Events



- April 30**  
Spring Rebuilding Day
- June 2**  
The Home Team at  
San Jose Giants Stadium
- September 15**  
Paint The Town

Save the Date:  
September 15th



## Paint The Town

This event is a celebration and a fundraiser in support of all the critical work that is accomplished throughout the year.

If you are interested in underwriting this event, please contact our Development Department at [development@rtsv.org](mailto:development@rtsv.org) today!



Scan the code to subscribe to our E-Newsletter and keep up with all of our events!



# Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report

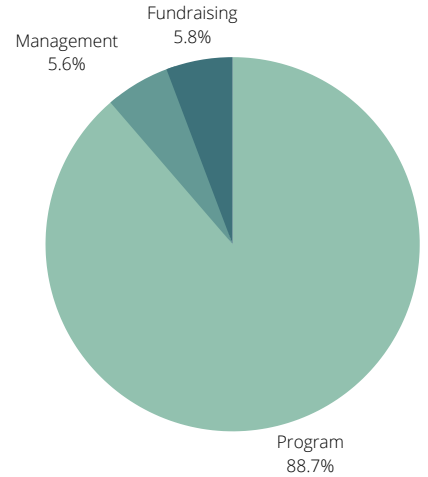
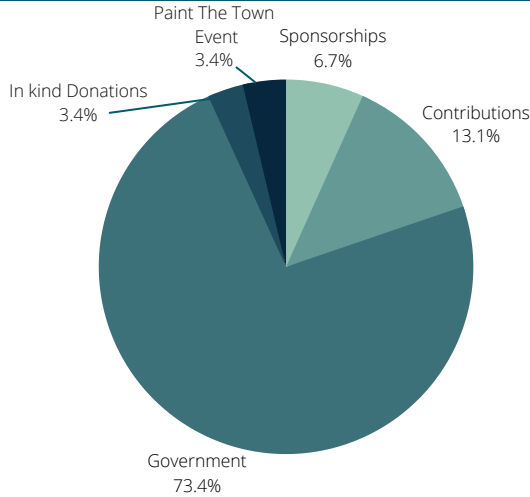
## FY 2021 Financial Report

### Income

Sponsorship	\$ 200,242
Contributions	\$ 388,980
Government	\$ 2,187,905
In-kind Donations	\$ 92,344
Paint The Town Event	\$ 110,712

### Expenses

Program	\$ 2,730,733
Management	\$ 171,500
Fundraising	\$ 177,206



## We Rebuild Better Together

### A Message From Our Chair, Emily Ransone

When we were first faced with the challenges brought on by the pandemic, RTSV pivoted its operations to become resilient while addressing the needs of our community. During this last year, RTSV charged ahead, continuing to serve our neighbors in need with the life-changing repairs and community revitalization that we rely on your support to help complete. Along with celebrating 30 years of service, many of us celebrated becoming fully vaccinated, finally able to add a bit of normalcy to our lives and returning to the things we love.

While eating at restaurants and seeing friends began to feel safe again, we also were challenged to head back into the office and leave Zoom meetings behind. After more than a year of getting used to working in remote teams, RTSV found that many of our partner organizations wanted to kick off going back into office with a

team bonding activity while giving back to the communities that were hit hard during the peaks of the pandemic. Through Team Builds with RTSV, our partners were able to safely reconnect with their teams, learn how



to communicate better while working hands-on with each other, and bond as they made a direct impact on our community.

As we kicked off the first Team Build of the year in 2021, we were inspired by our

partners' commitment to making a difference. For example, volunteers from DPR Construction came together to work on a project at RAFT, Resource Area For Teachers, a nonprofit that provides low-cost materials and STEM kits to teachers. DPR volunteers were passionate about giving back and supporting our community's teachers who at that time were returning to classrooms for the first time since the pandemic began.

Team Builds are turn-key projects led by RTSV Staff separate from our Rebuilding Days in April and October. Team Builds highlight an organization's commitment to volunteering and making a positive impact in our community, and can provide a unique bonding experience and a deeper understanding of the work we do.

We are so grateful to each of our partners for their dedication and look forward to more stories to tell this next year.





## In 2021 we:

MADE 3,285 repairs to 342 homes and 5 nonprofit facilities

ENGAGED 518 [Re]Builders who donated 8,203 hours of service

SERVED 551 homeowners and 30,797 clients in the nonprofit facilities we repaired

## BOARD MEMBERS

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## Thank You, Rebuilding Day Partners!



• Lynn Wedel Memorial Fund

• County of Santa Clara District 2 - Supervisor Cindy Chavez

• County of Santa Clara District 4 - Supervisor Susan Ellenburg

