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REBUILDING TOGETHER NAMES GARY OFFICER PRESIDENT AND CEO
New CEO Brings Distinct Blend of Housing and Advocacy Experience

Washington, D.C. – August 21, 2006 -- The Board of Directors of Rebuilding Together, today announced that after an extensive nationwide search, it has elected Gary Officer as the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Officer will join Rebuilding Together on September 7, 2006. He replaces current President and CEO and national founder Patty Johnson who announced her retirement earlier this year after 22 years of service to Rebuilding Together, the nation's largest volunteer home rehabilitation organization.

As President and CEO, Gary Officer will have overall management responsibility for Rebuilding Together. He will be responsible for developing, establishing and implementing strategic goals for the organization and will be the key liaison to 240 affiliates across the nation, working with them to develop resources and services to help them better serve their communities. He also will serve as the primary spokesperson and national fundraiser for Rebuilding Together.

“Gary’s extensive background in housing, fundraising and organizational management will be extremely valuable as he takes the helm of Rebuilding Together and moves forward our mission to serve more low-income families,” said Angela Sparks Beddoe, Chairman of the Board of Rebuilding Together. “Gary believes in the importance of sustaining a safe and decent home for all low-income Americans and understands the importance of coalition building and resource management to achieve that mission.”

Officer recently served as the President and CEO of Associated Black Charities where he is responsible for executive leadership for the nation’s largest African-American, philanthropic organization. Prior to that, he served as the President and CEO of the National Credit Union Foundation, Inc. where he oversaw the offices in Washington, DC and Madison, WI in addition to a national network of 22 state credit union foundations. In this role, he served as the national spokesperson for innovative credit union programs and initiatives. In both positions, he was responsible for the overall management of these grant-making institutions, for the strategic deployment of funds, and for the relationships with donors and the management of staff.

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Officer also served as director of housing and then was promoted to the executive director of the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, a public/private partnership that brings together community organizations, business and government to create a wide array of housing programs throughout the Metropolitan Boston area. While at the Partnership, Officer was instrumental in developing strategic relationships and policy initiatives with federal, state and local governments, providing executive leadership, and administering a 7,000 unit Rental Assistance Program.

Earlier in his career, Officer served as the director of asset management for the Lakefront SRO Corporation in Chicago, worked for the Chicago Housing Authority, and was a public school teacher in Chicago. He has a Master of Science in Economics and International Relations from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Manchester University in the United Kingdom.

“Gary is stepping into a leadership position that has been successfully created and enhanced by the dedication and devotion of Patty Johnson. Throughout her career with Rebuilding Together, Patty has been a tireless advocate for making a difference in communities across America. She has traveled the country seeking to find volunteers, donors, and to raise visibility for Rebuilding Together,” added Sparks-Beddoe.

Patty Johnson was named President of Rebuilding Together (formerly *Christmas in April*) upon its founding in 1988. Under her leadership, Rebuilding Together has grown from 13 to 240 affiliates and has become a nationally recognized model for housing preservation and revitalization. Currently rehabbing 8,900-plus houses and non-profit facilities annually, a total of \$98 million of work is accomplished each year through the efforts of more than a quarter million volunteers. Over the past year, in addition to her day-to-day responsibilities, Johnson has lead an effort to implement Rebuild 1000!, the nonprofit’s commitment along with local affiliates, corporate sponsors, and volunteers to help rebuild homes and lives in the Gulf region following the devastating Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the fall of 2005.

“As Rebuilding Together prepares to rehabilitate its 100,000th house this year, I am honored to join this worthwhile and growing organization and to step into the leadership position and continue forward with the stewardship that Patty Johnson has established,” said Gary Officer, “I am looking forward to working with national network of affiliates, donors, and volunteers to further spread the great work of Rebuilding Together across the nation.”

“I have been extraordinarily blessed in this position, working with so many amazing people who truly care about helping humanity by rehabilitating both homes and lives. Rebuilding Together always will have a special place in my life,” said Patty Johnson, President and CEO of Rebuilding Together. “I appreciate the support that our volunteers and donors have given over the years and encourage them to continue to help make a difference in the lives of so many well-deserving people. I am thrilled with the selection of Gary Officer as the new President and CEO to lead this organization forward and I wish him great success.”

Founded in 1988, Rebuilding Together is the nation’s largest volunteer home rehabilitation organization. By bringing volunteers and communities together, houses and non-profit facilities are preserved and revitalized. With a national network of 240 affiliates serving over 1800 cities and towns, through a volunteer force of 275,000 people. For more information, visit www.rebuildingtogether.org.