**Brothers Redevelopment**

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**We’re Breaking Out the Brushes for Paint-A-Thon’s 39th Season**

**When Paint Flies, Neighborhoods Are Lifted Up**

Brothers Redevelopment is coloring your world a shade brighter. This season we’re looking for more than 2,300 volunteers to help us paint homes in 19 cities across the Front Range.

From March to September, whole communities will come together to spruce up the houses of low-income or disabled elderly people in six Denver Metro Area counties. Volunteers and sponsors can save homeowners as much as $5,000 — allowing them to devote more of their limited incomes to cover medications, groceries and utility bills.

Seniors are encouraged to submit applications now for a free Paint-A-Thon at their house. To qualify, homeowners must be at least 60 years old, demonstrate financial need and own a home that needs paint. (Houses can stand no taller than one and a half stories.)

Homeowners don’t owe a penny toward the work. Those who want to join the crew can roll up their sleeves.

“The way we approach volunteering is that we are all working on the same project, volunteers alongside homeowners, doing phenomenal paint jobs and creating community,” says Brothers’ volunteer manager Chad Nibbelink. “We’re all here to be great neighbors.”

Last year, 2,269 volunteers served during Paint-A-Thon’s 38th season, which ended last fall with a record 118 homes getting gleaming new coats for winter.

Brothers Redevelopment marshaled the volunteers, who donated 16,836 hours of brushwork and other sweat equity to restore homes. Crews also can weatherproof windows and sometimes can add hardware like stair rails and grab bars to make homes safer, say Jason McCullough, Brothers’ Home Maintenance and Repair manager.

“Sometimes people just need a little bit of help to be able to stay in their homes,” McCullough says.

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**Brothers Redevelopment Paint-A-Thon 2017 (continued)**

“I was so happy I qualified — I needed my house painted so bad,” said Joyce Washington, a 73-year-old widow living along Martin Luther King Boulevard in northeast Denver.

Joyce had managed to put a new roof on her house three years ago, but after paying for that, she was unsure if she would be able to get her home painted. Then last September she heard through her church about Paint-A-Thon.

“On a Saturday they bombarded me with all these beautiful ladies and some men, and they came and helped me,” Joyce said. “They seemed excited to do it. It was beautiful. I couldn't believe the energy they had. They made good conversation, but worked diligently. They were willing workers.”

The memories and paint job will last many years.

“I chose a rich forest green for my house,” Joyce said. “It’s very, very nice. And they sprayed the awnings. It’s just beautiful. It looks like a new home, almost.”

Volunteers can take their project as far as they want, often going beyond paint, Chad says. “We really love what our local volunteers do and how they own their projects.”

Last summer, hundreds of volunteers connected with Centura Health’s South Denver hospitals, Adventist churches and Mile High Academy joined up with Paint-A-Thon as part of the Love Matters Most day of service.

“They were there to meet a tangible need,” Chad said of the group, “but they are also very intentional about forming relationships with homeowners and going back to them, for example, to deliver gift baskets.”

LenderLive, a mortgage services provider that helps financial institutions build and grow their residential mortgage businesses, goes all out for Paint-A-Thon homeowners.

“It’s not a one-day project for us,” said LenderLive team leader Kurt Tetz. “We did a whole makeover.”

The crew took weeks to prep and repair homeowner Christine’s house, They cleared overgrown plants and provided new landscape, constructing elevated planter boxes. And, of course, they painted. They had 80 people on the peak day, working with Christine’s many family and friends.

“We enjoy the challenge of blowing people’s socks off,” Tetz said. “They completely didn’t expect how much we were able to do. She was so thankful. It makes me very happy she was blown away.”

**Everything you needed to get involved this spring or summer as a volunteer or sponsor:**

Call Brothers Redevelopment, 720.339.5864. Or, email Chad Nibbelink at chad@brothersredevelopment.org. Visit Brothers [redevelopment.org](http://redevelopment.org).

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