

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rebuilding Together Albuquerque, Sears and Kmart to Improve the Lives of Homeless Military Families

Local Military Families Benefit from Heroes at Homesm

Albuquerque, New Mexico – April 15, 2009 – On Saturday, April 25, 2009, Rebuilding Together Albuquerque will team up with volunteers from FBT Architects, Enterprise Builders, J.B. Henderson Construction, Qwest Vets-NM, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and Veterans Integration Center residents to help renovate the Veterans Integration Center (www.nmvic.org). Over 150 volunteers are expected. The center's mission statement is to respond to the needs of veterans, with focus on those who are homeless or experiencing a housing crisis, through the provision of quality employment training, housing and supportive services based on a Continuum of Care. The renovation project is part of Heroes at Homesm, a program that provides support to military service people, veterans and their families through joint efforts with various nonprofit organizations.

The Veterans Integration Center (VIC) is a former motel that currently serves over 70 homeless veterans, including two families and their children. On Saturday, April 25, 2009, Rebuilding Together Albuquerque (RTA) and volunteers will be painting the exterior portion of the Veterans Integration Center with paint donated by Dunn-Edwards Paints. The center is located at 6101 Central Ave. NE. While the volunteers are painting the facility, FBT Architects and The Hensley Engineering Group will be performing a facility assessment of the individual rooms and support spaces. This assessment will be used to prepare a work plan that when completed will bring the facility into building code and fire code compliance. This major renovation project will be managed by J. B. Henderson Construction with the assistance of Enterprise Builders. A new fire alarm and fire sprinkler system will be installed as part of the major renovation project. Design, materials and installation will be donated by Western States fire Protection, TNT Tech LLC, Honeywell and the Road Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 669.

Upon completion of these projects, the center hopes to be able to expand their capacity to 124 rooms.

Sears Holdings has raised nearly \$7 million for Heroes at Homesm through 2009 via a nationwide in-store fund-raising campaign during the holidays. This is one of the hundreds of projects made possible by these donations. To date, Rebuilding Together has completed nearly 300 projects for veteran homeowners across the country.

Rebuilding Together Albuquerque continues to generate support for low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled, members of the military, veterans and their families by providing home repairs, improvements or modifications. To find out more about Rebuilding Together Albuquerque, how to refer a family or how you can help please visit <http://www.rebuildingalbuquerque.com> or call Margie Maestas-Flores, RTA Executive Board Secretary, (505) 792-8611.

About Rebuilding Together

Rebuilding Together is the nation's largest nonprofit organization working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize neighborhoods by providing home repair and renovation services free of charge to those in need. Through the support of corporate sponsors, local businesses and the hands-on work of over 200,000 volunteers, Rebuilding Together renovates and repairs nearly 10,000 homes and nonprofit facilities annually with a market value of nearly \$100 million.

In addition to its core home repair work, Rebuilding Together renovates community centers and conducts home modification and repair programs that focus on elder home safety, energy efficiency, veterans housing, and disaster recovery and reconstruction. Rebuilding Together has over 200 affiliates and recently celebrated the completion of its 100,000th project. For more information, visit www.RebuildingTogether.org.