

Annual Report 2020



Rebuilding Together.®

Kent County

Best worst year ever?!

Dear Neighbor,

The year 2020 may go down as the best worst year ever. We saw a devastating pandemic, social unrest and a contentious election, all of which certainly challenged Rebuilding Together Kent County. In the interest of public health, we had to suspend our volunteer program, previously our primary source of labor for repair projects. Our Annual National Rebuilding Day and in-person fundraising events were also canceled. Our staff transitioned to working remotely.

All of this could have been a recipe for disaster...

Instead, the government rolled out a Payroll Protection Program and we were able to obtain funds to support a portion of our administrative salaries. We applied for and received a COVID grant from the state. We received additional support from the Constance & Carl Ferris Foundation that had provided funding earlier in the year. We researched other COVID-specific resources and secured several. We applied for increased support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), receiving more funding than in previous years.

Pivot – verb; turn on or as if on a pivot...

Love it or hate it, “pivot” is the buzzword of the pandemic. And pivot we did! Without a volunteer workforce, we needed to engage contractors to perform critical repairs for our neighbors. Without the ability to visit our neighbors in person, we relied on email, letters and phone communications to stay in touch and provide a sympathetic ear for seniors staying safe in their home.

STAFF

Wayne Rickert
Executive Director

Genevieve Croker
*Director of Development
& Community Engagement*

Scott Brewer
Construction Manager

CONTRACTORS

Alex Reyes
Paul Roberts
George Edge

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020

Len Litkowski, *President*
Vic Pfeiffer, *Vice President*
Max Ruehrmund, *Treasurer*
Pam Vogel, *Secretary*


Bob Denison
Jon Hanley
John Leek
Bryan Matthews
Shelly Neal-Edwards
Maggie Thomas
Dave Slama

We primarily limited our work to exterior repairs – ramps, porches, roofs and gutters. We were able to maintain a safe distance while completing some critical interiors repairs, working to make bathrooms and kitchens safe to use.

Despite the unprecedented challenges, we survived and made neighbors' homes safer, drier and healthier. We also deployed a small group of COVID safe volunteers to help two other nonprofits with their projects!

As we say goodbye to 2020, we look forward with great enthusiasm and optimism. Fulfilling our mission, **repairing homes, revitalizing communities, rebuilding lives**, has never been more critical. Our strategic plan is focused on ending substandard housing in our community. We added three new board members with expertise in housing, fundraising and community development. Our Volunteer Committee is gearing up for re-engaging in the community. The Development Committee has an ambitious plan to create more opportunities for growth and sustainability.

Our list of supporters demonstrates that we are indeed a “neighbor helping neighbor” organization. Every single donation is a critical link to making our efforts sustainable. We are humbled by the trust and confidence in our Board of Directors and staff to carry out our mission with integrity and perseverance. We acknowledge our responsibility to be the best possible stewards of these resources and look forward to helping even more Kent County residents have a safe place to call home in 2021.


Wayne Rickert
Executive Director



Mr. N's roof was a real highlight in a year of unprecedented roof projects for Rebuilding Together Kent County. It was a testament to the impact of unrestricted giving, allowing our staff to dedicate several hours to a nomination process that culminated in all the materials and labor for this roof being donated by Owens-Corning and AROCON. One of **thirteen roofs that we replaced in 2020**, this one went to an 83-year-old widower who has lived in this home since he returned from overseas service in the Army in the early 1960's. Prior to our intervention, Mr. N. had buckets set up throughout his home to catch the drips raining down inside during each storm. For him, this meant not only enjoying a dry Thanksgiving, but also having the ability to renew an insurance policy that was in jeopardy due to the condition of the roof. There are many hardworking folks like Mr. N for whom home maintenance is simply out of reach physically and financially.

“You can't tell, but I'm jumping up and down right now.”

~Mr. N, Recipient of a new roof

In 2019, Mr. K required a medical procedure that left him unable to move about without a walker. Because he had no safe way to get up the front steps at his home, he was unable to be discharged from the assisted living facility where he was recovering. His wife contacted Rebuilding Together Kent County for help. In February of last year, just weeks before we all went into lockdown, a group of hearty volunteers braved freezing temperatures to construct a wooden ramp for the couple, **one of three we built or repaired in 2020**. George Edge of Allstate Building Company donated use of his trailer so our staff could safely transport the ramp in pre-fabricated parts, the only way our team could have finished the project in one day! We harness the generous donations of time, money and skills to ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors can have a safe place to call home.



“Before RTKC built our ramp, he couldn't safely enter the house.”

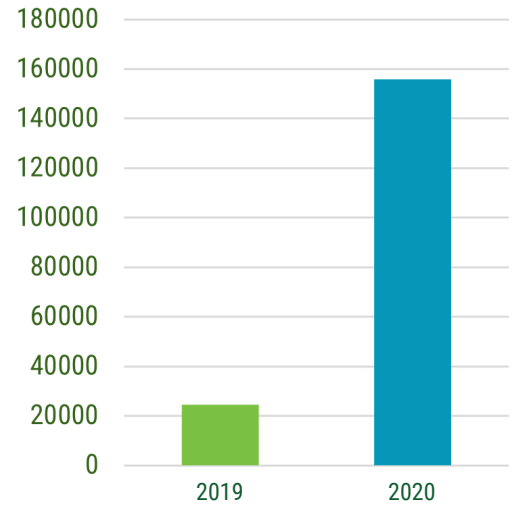
~Mrs. K, Recipient of a new ramp

**REBUILDING TOGETHER
KENT COUNTY MD INC.
Statement of Activities
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020**

	Total
Revenue	
Individual & Organization Contributions	\$ 28,380
Foundations	\$ 42,363
Government Grants	\$ 172,558
Other Income	\$ 714
Total Revenue	\$ 244,015
Expenditures	
Advertising	\$ 3,654
Bank & Service Charges	\$ 220
Construction Program Services	\$ 98,505
Computer	\$ 848
Website	\$ 642
Dues & Subscriptions*	\$ 6,382
Postage & Delivery	\$ 1,569
Printing & Reproduction	\$ 4,078
Professional Fees	\$ 18,769
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 1,440
Payroll Taxes	\$ 4,313
Insurance	\$ 6,900
Licenses & Permits	\$ 300
Salaries & Wages	\$ 44,208
Office Supplies	\$ 1,738
Telephone	\$ 1,141
Training	\$ 131
Travel	\$ 2,097
Warehouse Expense	\$ 660
Depreciation & Amortization	\$ 2,267
Total Expenditures	\$ 199,861
Net Revenue	\$ 44,155

The figures in the chart below represent Construction Materials & Labor for the 2019 and 2020 calendar years.

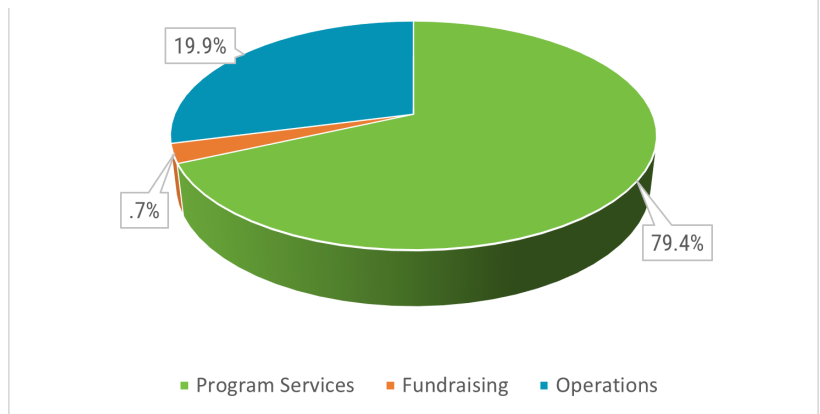
Annual Construction Expenses



*Includes annual affiliate fee to Rebuilding Together USA.



% Expenditures





The Worton Point African American Schoolhouse served the community from the late 1800's until 1958. While it is owned by the neighboring church, the Kent Cultural Alliance is serving as a fiscal agent to facilitate the restoration of this local landmark. Church Elder and former student at the one-room schoolhouse, Ms. Irene Moore, was on hand over two days in September as small groups of Rebuilding Together Kent County volunteers worked to prepare the structure for new wiring and drywall. Wearing masks and keeping safely distant from one another, folks removed old carpeting, insulation and tar paper to expose the original wood floor. They also removed faux wall paneling and took out the drop ceiling. The investment of volunteer time to remove all the old drywall nails meant fewer hours of hired labor were necessary, helping to stretch the available funds for this effort. It was our first volunteer project after the COVID pandemic swept the country and everyone was happy to be outside working after months of stay-at-home orders.

“As we work to preserve this treasure, we need every possible partner. Thank you for being among the first and most willing.”

~John Schratwieser, Kent Cultural Alliance

In November, we were pleased to pitch in to help our new partners in the affordable housing sphere, Kent Attainable Housing. They installed their first modular home near Garnet Elementary and they asked us to reach out to our volunteer network for willing hands. Teams of four to six people worked for four days to construct the front porch, designed to pay homage to the porch on the original school building, back when it was exclusively for Black students. We feel strongly that it takes multiple partners willing to collaborate and support one another as we work to improve the quality of life for residents of Kent County. We look forward to additional opportunities to engage with partners in 2021 and increase our impact accordingly!



Organizational Donors

ACME Chestertown
AROCON

Carl Forstmann Memorial Foundation
Charles L. Read Foundation
Chestertown Elks Lodge #2474
Christ United Methodist Church

Constance & Carl Ferris Foundation
Costco Wholesale
Home Builders Care Foundation
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban
Development (HUD)
Lowe's

Mid-Shore Community Foundation
Owens-Corning Roofing
Presbyterian Church of Chestertown
Sgt. Preston Ashley Post 228
United Way of Kent County

In addition to the Foundations and Agencies listed above, we are grateful to the United States Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust for providing nearly \$115,000 in program support in our last fiscal year!



Committed to the future of rural communities.



After nine years of service, we recognize John Leek who stepped off the Rebuilding Together Kent County Board at the end of 2020. Since he first started volunteering more than a decade ago, he has donated his skills and time to build ramps, clean out gutters, paint, drywall, and countless other tasks for folks here in Kent County. Several people have fond memories of the giant spinning Wheel of Fortune-inspired piece he constructed for our fundraising event in 2018. In addition to his time and talent, John is a member of our [RE]Builders Club, giving monthly to support the mission of this organization that he cares so much about. While we will miss John at board meetings, we know we can count on him to stay involved well into the future. We are grateful for his dedication to ensuring our neighbors live in homes that are safe, warm and dry!

“John Leek dedicated a decade of skill and service to our Kent County neighbors.”

~Wayne Rickert, Rebuilding Together Kent County

Individuals Donors

Abel, Dorothy
Baccala, Joan
Bachman, Carm & Eric
Balaban, Rick & Nancy
Ball, Mary Alice
Barndollar, James & Polly
Basener, Sue
Benjamin, Suzanne
Berman, Susan & Brian
Bickley, Lynn & William
Biggs, Richard & Nancy
Bird, Perry*
Bowdle, William & Alice
Briggs, Albert & Anne
Brillhart, Bob & Barbara
Brodie, Kay
Buckel, Ralph & Sara
Bushby, Skip & Catherine
Chace, Jonathan & Evie Baskin
Chambers, Catherine
Chance, Patricia
Charles, Anne Kerr
Clark, Charles & Catherine
Clark, Thomas & Ginger
Cleary, John
Coleman, Patrick
Creegan, Barbara & Frank
Crocker, Genevieve
Crocker, Virginia & Stephen
Damon, Craig
Denison, Bob
Derricott, Gwinn & John
Dinoff, Sandra & Larry
Dolinger, Lynn & Ralph
Durfee, David & Sandra
Dutton, Phil & Linda
Ehrenberg, Daniel
Elsberg, Mickey & Margie
Fisher, Geraldine
Fisher, Thomas
Fletcher, Janice
Fry, Robert
Frymiare, Dianna
Fulton, Tom & Cynthia
Ghio, William & Joanne
Gillespie, Erin & Jim
Gloyd, Charles & Theresa
Goodall, Richard L.
Goodall, Richard T.
Grant, Betty Ann
Groce, Thomas & Joan
Haist, Sue & Bob

Hanley, Linda & Jonathan
Hart, Harry & Nancy
Hartwig, Bruce & Connie
Hauge, John & Susan
Havemeyer, Christian
Hawes, Charlotte
Heinold, Conrad & Angie
Henderson, John
Herlihy, Kenneth & Pat
Hermes, Helena & Erik Walter
Hollingsworth, Trams*
Hoopes, David & Cheryl
Hopwood, Jason
Huntington, John
Hurley, Mary*
Hurst, Frank & Ellen
Ingersoll, Gayle & Robert
Ingersoll, William
Johnson, Airlee & Hank
Kalmanowicz, Thaddeus & Margaret
Kliever, Douglas
Kohl, Ben & Kim
Langenfelder, George & Sharon
Leek, Sandra & John*
Lerner, Charles
Linthicum, Erlena & Frederick
Litkowski, Len
Loethen, Shelley
Lucky Pick Community Garden Club
Luff, Joyce
Lupis, James
Maher, Erney & Margaret
Matthews, Sue & Bryan
McDonald, Patricia & Paul
McGee, Patricia
Metzbower, E.
Minnich, M. Brooke
Narowanskie, Steve & Holly
Naughton, Sally
Neal Edwards, Shelly
Nightingale, Jane & Steve
Noble, Helen & Kenneth
O'Brien, Louise
O'Connor, Gerard
O'Dowd, Pamela
Owens, Donald & Glenn
Panebianco, Mary
Parks, Floyd & Lanetta
Patnovic, Elizabeth & John
Payne, Cristal
Payne, Steve
Pfeiffer, Vic & Patricia*

Pope, Nancy & Curtis
Powell, Nancy
Pritchard, Mary
Pyle, Dave & Cindy
Rasin, Marjo
Rather, Lucia
Richmond, Mary Ann
Rickert, Amy
Rickert, Wayne & Jen*
Riding, Marianne
Ritchie, Alice
Ritchie, Dorothy & Robert
Robson, Gary & Nancy
Rodney, George & Francis
Ross, Carol
Roth, Robert
Ruehrmund, Max & Maryann
Russell, Jeffrey & Gail
Salett, Stan & Liz
Silcox, Hugh
Simmons, Diana
Sisk, Laurette
Sjostrom, John & Courtney
Slama, Dave
Smith Holmes, Margaret
Smithson, Joyce
Soentgen, Paul & Margaret
Staples, Doris & William
Stevens, Joan
Stevens, Ken
Stine, J.
Stonely, Karen
Strauss, Mona
Sullivan, Françoise
Svoboda, Richard
Swanson, Nancy & Richard
Taussig, Marilee
Tobey, Richard & Paddy
Usilton, Martha & John
Valentino, Kay & Bill
Van Culin, Ellen
Wade, Laura & Kirk
Wall Street Wizards
Warren, Jennifer
Washington, Thelma & Bill
Whaley, Sigrid
White, David & Mary
Whitman, Gren & Janice Plotczyk
Wise, Joan
Woodall, Annie
Woodruff-Capper, Debra
Wootton, Eugenia
Vogel, Pam & John
Zwanger, Mark & Malcolm Kramer

*Member of monthly [RE]Builders Club.

“There are really not enough words to express my gratitude for the excellent work that has been done for me.”

~Mrs. M, Recipient of a new roof



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