



HOME
REPAIR
RESOURCE
CENTER

www.hrrc-ch.org

What's Happening at **HRRC?**

Fall 2012

Donors Make a Difference

We really can't say it often enough: Thank you. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to the plate and supported our work this year.

This is a challenging time for Home Repair Resource Center. We continue to face shrinking federal support, while the need for our services has grown.

HRRC's donors know that meeting that need is critical if our community is to remain healthy. That is why giving to Home Repair Resource Center reached record levels in fiscal 2012.

We are especially grateful to our **2012 Bridge Fund Donors** who responded to our need with significant contributions and/or major increases in giving, all to help HRRC "bridge the gap" in funding:

Christopher Brandt & Beth Sersig
Ensign & Lana Cowell
Nancy & Richard Dietrich
Larry & Marlene Fischer
Kevin Hengst
Susie Kaeser & Jerry Blake
Steve & Nancy Markus
John & Charlotte Newman
Sue & Samuel Nigro
Louisa & Solomon Oliver
Jessica & Eric Schreiber
Paul & Nan Volpe
Diana & Ted Woodbridge
Don & Dottie Zito

Increased giving was one key to keeping our programs going last year. The other was involvement by an entirely new cadre of volunteers, like the 21 professionals who taught workshops for our Project Repair program during fiscal 2012. These volunteer instructors shared their time and expertise with eager homeowners seeking to learn repair skills. We thank them, too.

The need continues, and – with your help – HRRC will be here to meet it. Watch for our 2013 Annual Appeal this November. Your gift will be more important than ever!

Practical Sustainability Series Returns

HRRC's popular lecture series, Practical Sustainability, continues this fall with two upcoming presentations.

Inside the Envelope: Low-Cost and Sustainable Practices for Home Heating & Cooling

Fred Cortright (oneloom.net) & Cynthia Trotta (GoodCents)

Join us for a discussion of relatively cheap, relatively easy, and yet high-impact changes people can make to improve their home's energy performance.

Wednesday, October 10th, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Coops, Co-Ops, and Cooperation

Fred Cortright (oneloom.net)

What might a community approach to sustainability involve? Join us for a wide-ranging panel discussion (with audience input), touching on such topics as neighborhood-scale shared energy generation, bike- and car-share programs, community gardening, and owning power, lawn, and garden tools in common.

Wednesday, November 14th, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

These presentations, to be held at the Heights Libraries, Lee Road branch, 2345 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, are free and open to residents of all communities. Reservations are requested; call (216) 381-6100, ext. 16 to save your spot.

Check Out HRRC's New Website

If you haven't already done so, take a look at our "new and improved" website, thanks to the volunteer team from GiveCamp who worked round the clock with us the weekend of July 20th. You can now check out classes and events, view our repair handouts, and sign up for programs – all from the comfort of your computer or smart phone. You'll find us at www.hrrc-ch.org.

And, don't forget to like HRRC on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

Weekly emails feature classes, more

If you want a reminder about the next repair workshop or tips on tools and products from our volunteer instructors, sign up for HRRC's weekly emails. Send your email address to rstager@hrrc-ch.org.

Order an Energy Audit and Help HRRC

Home Repair Resource Center is once again partnering with **Dominion East Ohio's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program** to benefit both homeowners and HRRC. Dominion East Ohio residential gas customers benefit from a "deep discount" on the cost of the audit (normally a \$500 value), paying only \$50 for the 3-4 hour energy assessment.

And, HRRC will receive a donation from GoodCents, the company providing the audits, for all orders placed between October 10th and November 10th where HRRC is specified as the referring organization. Audits can be ordered online at www.deoenergysavers.com or by calling (877) 287-3416.



During the home energy assessment, a BPI-certified auditor from GoodCents performs an array of tests, installs some free home improvements, and prioritizes measures that will make the home more comfortable and energy-efficient. The owner can also get a rebate on improvements made as a result of the audit.

Cleveland Heights homeowner David Jorgensen was very pleased with the audit done at his home. "It was well worth the cost. The airseal test and infrared camera images were very helpful, and the

way the auditor checked the furnace gave us a lot of information about how it was performing. He was even able to fix the backdraft on the water heater on the spot – a carbon monoxide risk that we were completely unaware of." David has already caulked some air leaks that the auditor identified around the windows, and will be hiring a contractor for additional measures suggested in the audit.

About 100 area homeowners placed orders for energy audits that benefited HRRC in the last year. For details, about the program, go to www.deohpwes.com.

Women's Repair Course Expanded

HRRC's Home How-To for Women program is now available to all women homeowners who want to gain confidence and experience in home repairs. The newly-redesigned curriculum has four modules, each made up of eight two-hour classes held in our Teaching Center. The modules – Home Maintenance 101, Carpentry, Electrical, and Plumbing – can be taken in sequence or individually.

The final module for 2012, Plumbing Repairs, will start in November, break for the holidays, and continue in January. Interested women can enroll online or call Becky Stager at (216) 381-6100, ext. 16. More information, such as a list of topics included in each module, is available on our website, www.hrcc-ch.org.

Senior Repair Program Added

Perhaps it's a widow struggling to deal with home repairs after the death of her husband. Maybe an elderly neighbor confided that getting bids for a new roof is really confusing him. It might even be your parents, who fear that increasing physical limitations may make it impossible for them to stay in the house where they've lived their entire married life. We all know seniors who need a little help in order to maintain their homes.

Thanks to grants from the McGregor Foundation and the United Black Fund, HRRC has added a special program to help seniors deal with home repair issues. Through our Senior Repair Program, homeowners age 62+ can get personalized assistance in assessing their repair needs and contracting repairs. Participants can benefit from:

- 90-minute home inspections to assess and prioritize repair needs and “aging in place” issues
- help with reviewing contractor estimates
- inspection of completed work
- special workshops for seniors

Wesley Walker, HRRC's new Senior Repair Specialist, has worked for years with owners of older and historic homes, especially in the areas of energy efficiency upgrades. He is an experienced teacher and presenter, skilled at transforming complex concepts into understandable terms for any audience.

Wesley is eager to help seniors plan ahead so they will be able to remain in their homes in future years. He reflects, “Every year thousands of seniors must leave their homes because their physical abilities can no longer overcome the barriers that are designed into their homes. Thoughtful planning now can create an environment that adapts to your changing physical abilities. A well-planned adaptive environment can add years to one's ability to live at home safely and independently.”



Homeowners pay a modest program participation fee. Residents of Cleveland Heights, University Heights, and South Euclid can attend one class and receive a 90-minute in-home repair consultation for \$25. Residents of other communities may attend one class and receive a 90-minute consultation here in our office for \$35. To register for a class or home inspection, call Wesley at (216) 381-6100, ext. 22 or email wwalker@hrrc-ch.org.

John Sobotincic Receives 2012 HouseMender Award

Soon after John Sobotincic and his wife Marilyn relocated to Cleveland Heights from Medina in 2009, he contacted HRRC to volunteer. Could we, he asked, use his skills in woodworking, carpentry and home electricity? Little did he know that he would fill so many of our needs.

John's first involvement was with HRRC's *Home in the Heights* subsidiary, where he served as a volunteer for the Berkshire Road rehab project. He also became a member of the *Home in the Heights* Advisory Board.



John then agreed to share his skills and expertise as a volunteer instructor for our Project Repair and Home How-To for Women programs. During the last 1-1/2 years, he has taught ten different carpentry and electrical classes for HRRC.

Most recently, John (and friend Al Kuntz, whom he recruited to help) added a panel to the room-size module in our Teaching Center, where workshop participants can learn to repair and replace wood siding and shingles.

John has never refused to help HRRC, and he has stepped up more than once when we needed someone at the last minute. At our June 26th Annual Meeting, John Sobotincic was not only elected to the HRRC board of directors, but was also – in recognition of this remarkable dedication – presented with the 2012 **HouseMender Award**, given to those “whose spirit and actions exemplify the values and mission of Home Repair Resource Center.”

Volunteers Needed

Can you give a few hours to HRRC? We are always in need of help with tasks ranging from yardwork to painting, staffing a table at an event to greeting visitors here in our office. Whether you can work one morning a week as our receptionist or are willing to come in for a few hours one evening to paint a wall, we'll appreciate your help. We are willing to work with scheduling a group, too – perhaps HRRC could be the recipient of a sorority service project or a teen group activity. Or, perhaps you'd like to be “on call” for special projects, like helping with bulk mailings.

Whatever time and talent you have to give, let us know! You can email Allison Taurbanek @hrrc-ch.org, or call (216) 381-6100, ext. 15.

New Board Members Bring Excitement and Vitality

Home Repair Resource Center is thrilled to have seven new members join our Board of Directors. They are a diverse lot, bringing different skills and backgrounds, and all of them share a common sense of purpose: they value our community and want to see it remain strong.

Deacon **Adolphus Gaffney** has extensive experience in the chemical field and has served, over the past five years, in various ministerial capacities at New Community Bible Fellowship of Cleveland Heights. **Diane Kovach** was a Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force for 22 years before retiring to Cleveland Heights three years ago. A nineteen-year resident of Cleveland Heights, **Marc Lefkowitz** has been Web Editor for the nonprofit GreenCityBlueLake since 2002. **Larry Pope** has been employed in banking for fifteen years, the last nine as a Business Development Representative at Third Federal Savings and Loan, and is a life-long resident of the region served by HRRC. When **John Sobotincic** moved from Medina to Cleveland Heights in 2009, he put his knowledge of woodworking, carpentry, and electricity to use at HRRC as a volunteer instructor and as a member of the *Home in the Heights* Advisory Board. South Euclid resident **Anthony Spring** is a civil engineer who has worked in the design/construction industry for over 20 years. A Cleveland Heights homeowner since 1984, **Diana Woods** is a Support Analyst in the Information Technology Department at the Sherwin-Williams Company and is pursuing an Associate Degree in Architectural Interior Design at Cuyahoga Community College.

Elected at HRRC's Annual Meeting on June 26th, these new members join twelve returning board members in guiding HRRC's course.

New Program Committee Adds Community Representatives

One of the strategic goals for HRRC's Board of Directors in the coming year is to take a fresh look at the programs we offer. To assist in that process, several community members were recruited to give the Program Committee a broader perspective. Dorothy Dickens, Glen-Paul Amick, Fred Cortright, and John Turner will join HRRC Board members Adolphus Gaffney, Mike Gaynier, Susie Kaeser, Mark Lefkowitz, John Sobotincic, and Anthony Spring in evaluating the value and cost effectiveness of the services HRRC offers.

This task is part of the overall strategic planning initiative begun last year with a grant from the Cleveland Foundation. It is our hope that the result will be an organization that is stronger and more relevant to the needs of today's homeowners.

Yes, I want to support HRRC's Annual Fund

Name (as you want to be listed in HRRC's Annual Report):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Amount enclosed (check payable to Home Repair Resource Center):

\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$____ Other

In honor memory of: _____

Please mail to: Home Repair Resource Center
2520 Noble Road
Cleveland Hts., OH 44121

Donations are tax-deductible. Donations can also be made
online at www.hrhc-ch.org

In memoriam: Charlie Ault

The importance of **Charles R. Ault** to Home Repair Resource Center cannot be overstated. Not only did he help to found our organization forty years ago, but his passion for justice, coupled with his legal and business experience, led him to help create our Challenge Fund Loan Guarantee – a program that has facilitated some \$5.5 million in repairs to the houses of Cleveland Heights.

Charlie passed away on August 31st at the age of 89, but his legacy continues in the work that we do. HRRC Board President Alex Pesta perhaps said it best in his letter to the *Heights Observer* and *Patch*: “His mission was one of empowerment, education, and compassion.... His legacy of social justice, housing rights and home maintenance will be carried on by the HRRC.”

Donations made to Home Repair Resource Center in Charlie's memory will be used to continue the work Charlie started back in 1971.

Operating support for HRRC is provided by individual donations, foundation grants, and HUD Community Development Block Grant funds through the City of Cleveland Heights.



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