



# porchlight

Fall 2009 Newsletter ✂ Rebuilding Together Long Beach

## Meet Our Volunteers

Learn about a few of our recent volunteers, who they are, how they got involved and a little about what its like to be an RT insider

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{ Helping homeowners live in warmth, safety & independence }

*A Tribute to those who give of their time and talents so that others may live in warmth, safety and independence.*

### **Bill and Debbie Leisy**



House Captains Bill and Debbie with the homeowner Ms. Easley.



Bill and Debbie Leisy of Masterworks Construction Services Inc. in Long Beach were looking for a charitable organization doing good works in their local community. They heard about Rebuilding Together through a national peer networking group of remodeling contractors they belong to and were happy to discover there was a chapter in Long Beach. "We immediately felt aligned

with Rebuilding Together's mission to preserve affordable home ownership and revitalize neighborhoods by providing home repair and renovation services to those in need!" said Bill. This is their story:

After attending one of the Long Beach Chapter's monthly meetings and talking to the great group of friendly and enthusiastic members, we were hooked! Because of our experience in construction and remodeling, Bill was invited to be a House Captain and Debbie became a Volunteer Coordinator for the Chapter's upcoming Rebuild Day. We were honored!

We didn't quite know what we were getting into – but the experience, knowledge and professionalism of the other organizers gave us courage. Our project consisted of scraping, prepping, and painting the carport overhangs on both sides of a mobile home, and building a handicap ramp to improve accessibility. The homeowner suffers from Lupus, COPD, Fibromyalgia, and other ailments that prevent her from doing upkeep on the home. She also has difficulty going up and down stairs. As the Rebuild Day arrived, we wondered how it would go. Bill has 19 years of experience running construction projects, but he has never had to coordinate 15+ volunteers with little or no construction experience, in a small working area, and complete all the work in 6-7 hours!

As it ended up, we had a fantastic group of volunteers; most of them were students from local universities and colleges. They were raring to go and whole-heartedly jumped into all the scraping and painting (and there was a lot of scraping!!). Our Production Manager, Victor Fuentes, also volunteered and helped direct construction of the handicap ramp. It was uplifting to see so many young people come out on a beautiful California day to do volunteer work. We were impressed that everyone stayed to the very end, and helped with clean-up. All ran smoothly and the homeowner was delighted with her spruced-up mobile home that she could now easily enter. She was surprised at the number of volunteers that showed up and was very appreciative of our work.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of the volunteers and the great organization and support of Rebuild Long Beach board members, we pulled off our first Rebuild Day. It was a long, action-packed day and we were dead tired afterward, but **it was a great feeling to know we had helped make someone's life just a little bit better.** The end of the day celebration at our locally-famous beer joint with the other chapter members put the perfect cap on a rewarding event. We look forward to our next Rebuild Day!

Bill Leisy is President of Masterworks Construction Services, Inc. and Debbie is Controller. Masterworks is a comprehensive general contractor that provides a full spectrum of residential and commercial construction services.



Bill and Debbie's crew of volunteers revitalized a home during the April 2009 workday. The team scraped and repainted the exterior, and installed a new wheelchair ramp!