



The Rainbow Village Voice

Providing Neighborhood Homes for People with Developmental Disabilities

November 2008

Our Handy Helpers

You may have noticed some improvements at a few of our homes recently. As part of a national service project, Lowe's adopted six Rainbow Village homes for major improvements. Lowe's donated all the materials needed for the projects, and on August 27th and 28th, Lowe's employees donated their time and talent to renovate the six Rainbow Village homes by staining decks, making repairs and repainting the exterior of a home.

"The Lowe's team went above and beyond in beautifying six of our homes," said Mike Rea, director of development and community relations for Rainbow Village. "They did even more work on our homes than we had planned. Lowe's is truly a hero for Rainbow Village."



Lowe's employees paint the exterior of a home on the Rainbow Village main campus in West County.



Lowe's employees do some yard work at a Rainbow Village home in Kirkwood.

The Lowe's employees went above and beyond for Rainbow Village, making extra improvements on the homes such as, improving the landscaping, re-constructing walkways, completing roof repairs and even replacing a broken porch light. All of these tasks were beyond what Rainbow Village had asked of them.

Lowe's has shown what a fabulous asset they are in the community. We are so thrilled to have them as a partner for Rainbow Village.

Rainbow Village By the Numbers

To give you a better idea of what we do, we have formulated a sampling of the time, love and care we put into our homes throughout the year.

47 Homes
26 Homes are handicapped accessible
3 Maintenance men
5,840 Hours a year of maintenance work
940 Preventative maintenance visits
94 Cleaned gutters
188 Replaced furnace filters
1,410 Mowed lawns

94 Cleaned air conditioners
188 Cleaned dryer vents
47 Furnace checks
188 Preventative exterminations
188 Fresh batteries for carbon monoxide and smoke detectors
250 Volunteers working on homes and events
26,350 Miles traveled yearly to maintain homes

Meet Our Maintenance Staff

Besides our fabulous volunteers, we also have three of the handiest of handy men on our fulltime staff—Jason Muschany, Donald Gaines and Dan Machold. Both Jason and Donald had been working for St. Louis Arc when they joined Rainbow Village, Jason in 1999 and Donald in 2000. Dan joined our staff in 2003. Besides being a general handyman, Dan is also a certified HVAC specialist.

Jason and his wife, Cindy, have two sons, thirteen year-old Jacob and five year-old Caleb. Jason loves to take his kids boating and jet skiing on the lake where they live. His other passion is riding and customizing motorcycles.



Donald Gaines (left), Dan Machold (center) and Jason Muschany make up our fabulous maintenance staff.

Donald has 10 children, 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild with his wife Barbara. When he's not spending time with his big family, Donald spends his time being his own handy man around the house. He also enjoys collecting brass artifacts and taking part in cowboy action shooting reenactments.

Before he picked up a wrench or a hammer, Dan was pretty skilled with a set of drumsticks. Dan was a professional musician in the 1980's, playing drums in the clubs around town. Now he just plays for fun with his friends, and when he's not rocking out, he's enjoying the great outdoors through fishing and float trips.

Jason, Donald and Dan are always working hard to keep our homes safe and beautiful. Be sure to say hi when you see them working on one of our homes.

Meet Lydia Rasis



When Lydia Rasis joined Rainbow Village as the Executive Director in 1993, we were a much smaller operation, consisting of only 14 homes and the Sunnen Community Center. After working in property management for McCormack Baron and Michelson Realty for 13 years, Lydia wanted to bring her expertise to the non-profit community.

Lydia's ability to select the perfect houses, with the right floor plan that can be easily adapted to the residents' needs, has been invaluable to Rainbow Village. In the past 15 years, Lydia has purchased 30 houses, expanding Rainbow Village to nearly 50 homes across the St. Louis area.

With Lydia at the helm, word began to spread about Rainbow Village and the services we provide for the community. When Lydia started in 1993, we had only one partner agency—St. Louis Arc. We now work with six support service agencies that care for our residents.

Lydia attributes her many accomplishments at Rainbow Village to the dedicated staff and, of course, the maintenance team.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Mike Rea, Director of Development and Community Relations for Rainbow Village, at mrea@rbvstl.org or 314-567-1522 ext. 207.