

MOUNT VERNON VOICE

Vol. 15 No. 6

Happy Valentine's Day Mount Vernon, Lee, and Alexandria

February 10, 2016 50 Cents

NHH Helps Get 3 Vets a Home

By combining resources, three local entities are ensuring that three veterans will no longer be homeless. Rebuilding Together Alexandria, a volunteer-based nonprofit that focuses on creating community stability, New Hope Housing, a nonprofit working to end homelessness, and the City of Alexandria have tapped into their skills and resources to make this a reality.

The City of Alexandria owns a three-bedroom townhouse that was vacant and leased it to New Hope Housing, whose clients include three veterans in need of housing and supportive services. Rebuilding Together volunteers provided free upgrades and repairs to make sure the home is safe and ready to be occupied.

"Not only does this partnership provide a bricks and mortar, furnished place to live but also the support these residents will need to stay housed and regain their lives," Pam Michell, executive director, New Hope Housing.

New Hope Housing identified three residents to live in the home. All three have served in the Army. Each of the three residents will receive ongoing case management and services to help them find and stay employed, learn to manage finances, find training, and manage their health through New Hope's permanent supportive housing program.

"Fixing this home so that three veterans can move off the streets and into housing is a small way we can say thank you to these men who have served our nation, and illustrates the power of partnership," explained Katharine Dixon, president and CEO, Rebuilding Together Alexandria.



Courtesy photo

This newly refurbished townhouse is now home to three veterans.

For this project, Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers rehabbed the townhouse, sanding and refinishing floors, weatherizing, removing overgrown trees, and installing blinds and smoke detectors. Tech Painting Co donated painters for this home. Throughout the year, Rebuilding Together works to maintain affordable housing, revitalize community spaces, and create homeownership opportunities in support of more socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhoods.

"Our community really responded to our calls for help," noted Michell. Team RWB, a veterans group, donated many kitchen items, Grant Thornton purchased new beds, and many other anonymous donors either sent gifts through an Amazon Wish List or dropped them off in the days before the residents made this their home.