



BE PART OF OUR PROGRAM



REBUILDING HOUSES, LIVES AND NEIGHBORHOODS



Our Mission

Christmas in October is the leading volunteer organization focused on rehabilitating the houses of low-income homeowners in the Kansas City area – at no cost to them. Our primary purpose is to rebuild houses, lives and neighborhoods so that needy families, the elderly, the disabled and veterans may live in safety, warmth and dignity.

The Dream: A Safe And Healthy Home For Every Person.

A person's house is much more than boards and nails. It's the place where lasting memories are made, where loved ones live, and a haven from the worries of the day ... where people feel safe and secure.



Unfortunately for many Kansas City families, their home is not a place where those happy memories can be made. Many are living with no running water, no heat, a leaky roof, or dealing with other conditions that make their home unsafe and unlivable. Making them feel unloved, ignored and discarded.



For the past 25 years, the first two Saturdays in October have been dedicated to helping these less fortunate homeowners. Through Christmas in October's Adopt-a-House program, more than 7,500 Kansas City homes have been restored to provide the gift of warmth, safety and dignity.

Christmas in October has given entire neighborhoods a boost by bringing volunteers and communities together to work on more than 500 homes every year. A fresh coat of paint, a new furnace, a hot water heater, and knowing that people care can bring pride and dignity back to these communities.



*Together we can rebuild Kansas City.
We invite you to be part of our journey.*

Christmas in October ... changing the lives of deserving families every year.

In 1984 two prominent Kansas City men – Richard W. Miller, senior partner of the Miller Law Firm, and John P. McMeel, president of Andrews McMeel Universal – had the foresight to realize that for many their home was their only asset. Both recognized an opportunity to “give back” to their community by improving the living conditions of those less fortunate.

Starting out as a program that helped low-income homeowners once a year, Christmas in October has grown into a year-round effort, working throughout the year to assist with emergency repairs for the needy. It doesn't end there. Christmas in October works with a number of organizations whose services make Kansas City a better place to live, such as the James B. Nutter Ivanhoe Center, which was rebuilt by Christmas in October to benefit hundreds in the community every day.



... from repairing and installing furnaces and hot water heaters to fixing roofs and water damage from leaking roofs to installing grab bars in bathrooms to making electrical and plumbing repairs ...



Bringing volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of homeowners in need.

On average, over **4,000 volunteers** fan out into the community every year often working side-by-side with the homeowners to make a difference ... to raise their standard of living and bring pride back to them and their neighborhood.

Volunteers, including over 400 skilled union plumbers, pipe fitters, electricians and glazers, corporate and church teams, and others from across the metropolitan area, contribute hundreds of man-hours helping to restore and renovate **more than 500 homes** every year.



At the end of the day, there's a bond that unites us all ... a spirit of community, caring and volunteerism that surrounds the extraordinary efforts of all involved.

Exhausted yet exhilarated by the results of helping neighbors in need, everyone realizes the tangible impact that has been made.

The value of the work performed by Christmas in October is immeasurable.

On average it would cost each homeowner between \$1,200 to over \$4,500 for the work that is done – money that those living on fixed incomes

do not have. This cost will only continue to remain out-of-reach for these homeowners as the cost of materials and commercial labor continues to rise.

With your help, Christmas in October will continue to provide this much-needed assistance at no cost to these homeowners.

Thank you for helping us build a better community. One family. One house. One donation at a time.



As the number of residents who need assistance continues to grow along with the cost of materials, so do our needs.

Our goal is to make a sustainable impact in partnership with the community. Your contributions and donations continue to help us make an economic impact averaging over \$2 million dollars each year.

Where does the money, gifts and time go?

Christmas in October receives no government grants. The vast majority of the work is performed by volunteers. Christmas in October has only two paid staff members.

A majority of the money received – whether through individual donations, charitable giving or grants – is used to rebuild and restore the homes of these needy people. Any materials or equipment you donate goes into our warehouse so that these items are there when needed.

And, of course, your time ... your time is a very valuable and precious gift. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of this organization. None of the work could be done without the support of all the unions, churches, companies and other organizations.

Why not give voice to your heart through your giving and volunteering? What you will get back will be immeasurable!





How Can I Help?

In an ideal world, homes in the urban core would be as well maintained as those in the suburbs; however, we do not live in an ideal world. The work Christmas in October does has tremendous impact towards raising the living conditions of these residents so that they may once again live in dignity, in warmth and a safe home.

Weatherizing homes, building wheelchair ramps, installing furnaces and hot water heaters, doing home maintenance jobs, painting, fixing plumbing and electrical problems, and more ...

The need is great; the emotional, team-building and personal rewards are enormous. Why not help us make an even greater impact?

- *Make a monetary contribution – **any time** throughout the year – to help us purchase needed materials and equipment.*
- *Organize a group of volunteers within your organization to spend a day helping improve the living conditions of the elderly and disabled.*
- *Gather a team of your friends and family and join us in October ... what better way to spend a day together!*
- *Give your time and talent back to the community through your painting, electrical, carpentry and other skills ... and gain greater exposure for your organization.*
- *Donate supplies such as construction materials, equipment, appliances and more to help us keep expenses in check.*
- *Partner with us to increase the awareness of the services we offer, giving those in your organization a stronger sense of community and a spirit of volunteerism.*


Join us in giving back ... together, we can build a better community.

Get started today.
Visit our web site at www.christmasinOctober.org.
Call us at 816.531.6443 or
send an email to: info@christmasinOctober.org



3261 Roanoke Road . Kansas City . MO . 64111
816.531.6443 . FAX . 816.531.6444
www.christmasinOctober.org

Certain project costs have been underwritten by the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Neighborhood Assistance Program.

MailPrint has generously donated the printing, paper and ink for this brochure.

© 2010, Christmas in October. 005-BRO-0110