



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay Partners with University Area CDC to Repair Hurricane-Damaged Community Sites**

**Tampa, FL (December 2024)**—Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay (RTTB), in partnership with the University Area Community Development Corporation (University Area CDC), has been hard at work restoring critical community spaces affected by recent hurricanes. This collaborative effort has already significantly repaired several key locations, ensuring these spaces can continue serving the community.

**[CLICK HERE FOR BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS](#)**

The partnership has focused on the following projects:

- **Golden Palms** ([11720 N 12th St, Tampa](#)): After hurricane damage left trees and debris on the roof, RTTB swiftly installed a tarp and began removing debris. Repairs include replacing two truss units, reroofing the structure, and addressing ductwork, electrical systems, and drywall for the most affected units. Work is expected to be completed by the end of January.
- **Cultural Campus Offices** ([1916 E 136th Ave, Offices A and B](#)): Severe water damage required a full-scale effort to muck and gut the site. RTTB's team reinstalled drywall, added new flooring, interior doors with locks, and

baseboards, and completed a full repainting. Repairs were completed on December 16.

- **Restore Hope Duplex** ([12319 N 9th St](#)): A smaller project involved a ceiling drywall patch to repair hurricane-related damage.

“We are proud to collaborate with University Area CDC on these vital restoration efforts,” said **Jose Garcia, CEO of RTTB**. “These spaces are essential to the community, and we are committed to ensuring they are safe, functional, and welcoming once again.”

“The University Area CDC is deeply grateful to **Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay** for their incredible partnership and unwavering support,” said Sarah Combs, executive director and CEO of University Area CDC. “After Hurricane Milton caused significant damage to several of our affordable housing complexes and offices, they didn’t hesitate to step in and help us rebuild,” she continued.

“Thanks to their quick action and generosity, new roofs were installed, and water damage was addressed, allowing us to continue providing safe and stable housing for our community. It’s partners like Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay that truly make a difference—helping communities grow, rebuild, and flourish. We are so thankful for their dedication and impact!” added Combs.

RTTB’s swift and effective response underscores the organization’s dedication to supporting local communities after natural disasters.

### **About Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay**

RTTB’s mission is “repairing homes, revitalizing communities, rebuilding lives.” We achieve this by providing members of our shared communities with imperative home repairs, housing, education, and other forms of assistance free of cost, bringing their homes to not just a habitable state but one that is safe and healthy and that they and their families can thrive in.

RTTB addresses critical issues such as leaking roofs, problematic ducts aggravating asthma symptoms in children, and installing safety features like grab bars for elderly residents. We also construct new homes, providing homeownership opportunities to those who may have never deemed it possible. Following Hurricane Ian, RTTB was designated the lead affiliate for statewide response and recovery efforts, extending our service area to heavily impacted communities in Southwest and Central Florida, where we assist the most vulnerable in repairing and rebuilding.

Find more information at [www.rttb.org](http://www.rttb.org). Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

### **About University Area CDC**

University Area CDC supports residents and businesses in the Tampa area through innovative programs, partnerships, and community development efforts. For more information, visit [uacdc.org](http://uacdc.org).

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