



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay and Wells Fargo Team Up  
to Give Local Senior's Home a Makeover!**

***Volunteers Will Work to Help Homeowner Age in Place***

**TAMPA, Fla. (September 6, 2023)-** Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay (RTTB), in collaboration with Wells Fargo, is excited to transform the home of Mario Paderes, a Tampa senior who has faced significant life challenges and desperately needs improvements to his home. **Today at 8:30 a.m.**, volunteers will gather at Mario's home ([8901 Waterway Dr. Tampa, FL](#)) to help with painting, landscaping, and adding beautiful new lattice.

"Many seniors like Mario Paderes are struggling to make ends meet on a fixed income, especially as the cost of living, food, and medical care continues to rise," said Jose Garcia, CEO of Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay. "With the generous support of volunteers and donations from Wells Fargo, we can ease some of that burden and provide Mr. Paderes with the comfort and security of a safe, well-maintained home."

**Media Opportunity:**

**WHEN:** TODAY, 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**WHERE:** [8901 Waterway Dr. Tampa, FL 33635](#)

**WHAT:** Volunteers renovate the home of Mario Paredes

**WHO:** Speak with Mr. Paredes, the volunteers who came out to help restore the home, and representatives from Rebuilding Together.

This initiative is part of RTTB's [Safe at Home](#) program, which provides no-cost preventive home modifications to improve accessibility, reduce falls, increase independence, and facilitate aging in place for people with mobility issues and other disabilities.

Originally from Peru, Mario Paredes moved to Florida with his family in the late 1990s. He has lived in their family home for over two decades, filled with memories but significant challenges. Born with a disability and battling mental health issues, Mario has relied heavily on the care and support of his devoted sister. Living alone on a fixed income, Mario struggles to maintain his home, making it difficult for him to find joy in his surroundings.

The work is paid for through a donation to RTTB by Wells Fargo. Since 2010, Wells Fargo has donated more than \$18 million to Rebuilding Together and its affiliate network to provide essential home repairs, revitalize communities, and help veterans, older adults, people with disabilities, families with children, and victims of disaster remain in their homes.

### **About the Safe at Home Program**

The Safe at Home program provides no-cost preventive home modifications to people with mobility issues and other disabilities to improve accessibility, reduce falls, increase independence, and facilitate aging-in-place. Safe at Home is designed to enhance aging-in-place outcomes for low-income older adults by modifying their home environment to meet their needs.

76% percent of households served by Rebuilding Together have a resident over the age of 65, and 51% have a resident with a disability, many of which have mobility

issues that make it difficult to remain safely at home. According to AARP, nearly 90% of older adults would prefer to stay in their current home as long as possible.

### **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](#).

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