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RTTB Hurricane Recovery Efforts Update: Volunteers Rally to Restore Hurricane Survivor's Home, Paving the Way for Her Return

This work is made possible through generous funding provided by TD Bank.

TAMPA, Fla.— Sandra Lawless, a Tampa resident of 50 years, is facing an uphill battle to rebuild her life after Hurricanes Helene and Milton left her home severely damaged. The storms tore off her roof and caused extensive water damage, filling her house with sludge and the smell of sewage, forcing her to discard nearly all her belongings.

On **Friday, February 21**, from **9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay (RTTB), with critical support from TD Bank, will provide painting and landscaping for Lawless' home. Other work includes installing a brand-new kitchen and adding much-needed insulation into Lawless' home. Community partners, like TD Bank, offer volunteers and funding that are necessary to help RTTB address the monumental task of repairing the thousands of homes impacted by the hurricanes.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

WHO: TD Bank volunteers

RTTB staff

Homeowner - Sandra Lawless

WHAT: Volunteers to paint and provide landscaping

WHEN: **Friday, February 21, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

WHERE: [4543 W Henry Ave., Tampa, FL 33614](#)

“These storms left so many families displaced and overwhelmed by the extent of needed repairs,” said Jose Garcia, CEO of Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay. “We can’t thank the volunteers and our partners at TD Bank enough for helping us give this family a fresh start.”

Lawless and her family have been working tirelessly to restore their home, demonstrating remarkable self-sufficiency and determination. They took significant steps on their own, including replacing the roof and installing drywall, before reaching out to Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay for assistance. Their efforts embody the spirit of resilience, and we are proud to partner with them in their journey to rebuild and return home. RTTB and TD Bank will install a new kitchen and insulation in the attic to help alleviate some of the financial burden she has endured due to the storms. Day of, volunteers will be painting and landscaping the home looking towards a brighter future.

“TD Bank is committed to strengthening the communities we serve and we're happy to support this effort through volunteering and funding,” said Scott Daigle, Commercial Market President of North Florida, TD Bank. “It’s a privilege to contribute to Sandra’s home renovation journey and support Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay’s incredible work in the community as we continue to recover from last year’s hurricanes.”

This event was originally scheduled for January 24 and was delayed due to weather impacts.

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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. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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