

**CHRISTMAS IN APRIL \* PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
FACT SHEET**

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**1. WHAT IS CHRISTMAS IN APRIL?**

Christmas in April is a non-denominational volunteer organization that repairs the homes of senior citizens who are either low-income and/or physically challenged so they may live in warmth, safety, and independence. After months of planning and preparation, Christmas in April culminates in a one day repair effort on the last Saturday in April.

Christmas in April relies on the community for support from volunteers to repair the homes, and seeks funding from businesses, corporations and individuals.

The success of Christmas in April is due to the cooperative efforts of County government, private businesses, civic and community organizations, churches and synagogues.

Christmas in April restores crumbling neighborhoods and homeowner's pride and dignity. **Christmas in April** is neighbor helping neighbor...people helping people.

**2. WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS IN APRIL \* PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY?**

The Prince George's County program was founded in 1989 under the leadership of Vincent "Cap" Mona of Mona Electric and the Prince George's County Government under the leadership of then County Executive Parris N. Glendening. The program has grown from helping 30 homeowners in 1989 with 600 volunteers to helping 82 homeowners in 2017 with the help of 3,200 volunteers. Prince George's County Executive, RUSHERN BAKER, has been involved with our program and continues to whole-heartedly support our efforts.

**3. WHAT IS PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S IMPACT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS?**

Since 1989, Christmas in April \* Prince George's County has repaired 2,583 homes with the help of 87,500 volunteers. We have done over \$45 million dollars worth of free home repair.

**4. WHY ARE CHRISTMAS IN APRIL SERVICES NEEDED?**

Christmas in April grew out of the urgent need for better housing conditions and the determination by communities across the County that they could do something about it, at least in their own neighborhoods. The need still exists and continues to grow. Our goal is to keep people living in warmth, safety and independence. Clearly an enormous segment of the population own their homes, yet cannot afford to or are physically unable to maintain them. With the population of Americans 65 and older projected to rise from 35.6 million to 71.5 million by 2030, these numbers will certainly grow. Christmas in April and its network of volunteers fill a desperate need, rehabilitating houses and revitalizing neighborhoods.

**5. IS CHRISTMAS IN APRIL AFFILIATED WITH A PARTICULAR CHURCH OR RELIGION?**

No. Our program embraces all people: all faiths, walks of life, racial and ethnic groups, ages and sexes. The spirit of the program is that of giving and sharing, hence the title "Christmas." The name was conferred by a Midland, Texas beneficiary who, in expressing her appreciation for the work done at her house, described it as "Christmas in April!"

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## **6. HOW ARE HOMEOWNERS SELECTED?**

Eligible homeowners are elderly and/or disabled, of low-income, and must own their home and live in Prince George's County. An application must be completed and received in the Christmas in April office by November 1 to be considered for the April project the following year. Each eligible applicant's home is inspected by the "House Selection Committee" and the homes selected are based on need and the ability of Christmas in April volunteers to accomplish the required tasks in **one** day.

## **7. DO THE HOMEOWNERS PAY?**

All repairs are free for the homeowners. Labor and supplies are donated or purchased by our program. Homeowners and family members are asked to welcome the volunteers into their homes and work alongside them in the spirit of neighbor-helping-neighbor. Our work is done with families and neighborhoods, not for them. A homeowner brochure is provided to clarify our process and partnership.

## **8. WHO SPONSORS CHRISTMAS IN APRIL?**

### **Operations and Funding**

Businesses, corporations, service organizations, and foundations can help:

**Sponsor-A-House** - contribute \$1500 to cover the average costs of materials and supplies and provide 20-30 volunteers.

**Adopt-A-House** - purchase all supplies, provide a House Captain, and all skilled labor and majority of volunteers. Assume responsibility for one house, or donation of \$2,500.

**House Captain** - is a person skilled in home repair/or a very organized person to act as the on-site manager on event day. This person assists with site evaluation, and is responsible for the assignment of tasks and selection of materials needed.

## **9. WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS IN APRIL**

Christmas in April began in Midland, Texas in 1973 when a few generous people decided to devote one day to help some neighbors in need. The program acquired its name when a homeowner exclaimed, "Why, this is just like Christmas...in April!"

In 1983, Christmas in April came to Washington, D.C. after a reporter witnessed the Midland, Texas program. A national program was launched in 1988 under the auspices of Christmas in April\*USA. In January of 2006, the National Office notified all affiliates that they would need to change their name to Rebuilding Together in order to remain a part of the National organization. Due to our strong name recognition throughout the County and much resistance to changing the name, Christmas in April\*Prince George's County disaffiliated from the National Office. As of September 2006, Christmas in April\*Prince George's County stands alone and is no longer affiliated with Rebuilding Together.

## **10. IS MY CONTRIBUTION TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?**

Yes. All contributions are tax-deductible. Contributions can be sent to: Christmas in April\*Prince George's County, 7915 Malcolm Road, Suite 102, Clinton, MD 20735. We also welcome your comments and suggestions.