



CHRISTMAS IN APRIL ★ GREATER PORTLAND

EXTRA!

• SATURDAY • APRIL 24, 1999 •

Christmas Spirit Shines in April Rebuilding Day '99 Makes a Big Impact

PORTLAND—The spirit of Christmas and of community shone brightly in Southern Maine for the second consecutive April as a volunteers performed thousands of dollars worth of much-needed work on the houses of area low-income, elderly and disabled this Saturday.

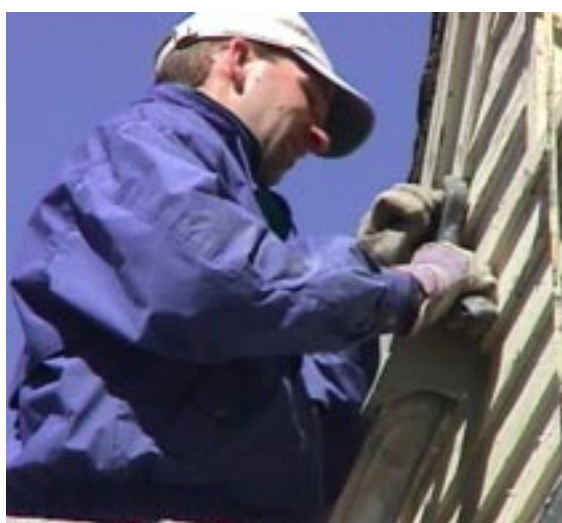
After a kickoff at the Eagles Club in Portland which featured hot coffee, 100 volunteers fanned out to eight project sites in Portland, South Portland and Gray. Led by skilled tradespeople who had also volunteered their time, the groups set about doing rehabilitation and maintenance work including replacing windows, fixing roofs, rebuilding porches and repairing bathroom. Volunteers braved a brisk, biting wind while completing their work but they received a warm and grateful reception from the recipients of their efforts.

“Just saying thank you doesn't seem like enough,” said Fred Jordan, a recipient of Christmas in April efforts. “This gives you faith in the human spirit. I'm so thankful.”

By day's end Christmas in April of Greater Portland estimated that \$75,000 worth of work would be completed. Coupled with 1998's effort, the group has improved more than 15 homes with the work valued at an estimated \$150,000.

Christmas in April of Greater Portland is part of a national organization, based in Washington, D.C. Today was Rebuilding Day across the nation. More than 180 chapters were scheduled to perform millions of dollars worth of work each year. In 1998, the group rehabilitated 4,500 homes, involving 145,000 volunteers. Since the inception of Christmas in April in 1973, the group has performed more than 25,000 projects with a market value of \$162 million.

Christmas-in-April of Greater Portland received generous sponsorship for its projects from Home Depot, Waste Management of Maine, Northern Utilities, Peoples Heritage Bank, Harvey Industries and Fleet Bank of Maine who were full house sponsors. Mark Stimson Realtors and Neil and Gunter, Inc. were half-house sponsors. In addition, the organization has been awarded a grant from the Maine Association of Realtors Foundation.



Thanks for your effort!

