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The Home Depot’s “Team Depot” Makes Over Dorchester Men’s Recovery Home in One Day

DORCHESTER- On Thursday, November 6, Home Depot® volunteers from around New England hung up their trademark orange aprons to spend a full day repairing and renewing The Next Step Apartments, a part of Volunteers of America Massachusetts (VOAMASS). The program provides a sober and affordable living for men after they’ve completed substance abuse treatment.

This effort in Dorchester is a part of The Home Depot’s fourth annual Celebration of Service campaign, when Team Depot volunteers put their talents to work to transform more than 1,000 homes and facilities for veterans across the country from 9/11 to Veterans Day.

For this project, over one hundred Team Depot volunteers renovated the Next Step Apartment’s three-story apartment building. The apartment building is decades old and was long overdue for an upgrade. This VOAMASS program provides men, particularly veterans, with a sober living environment, employment resources, mental health services and other tools to re-enter the community with healthy living skills. For veterans living in the Next Step Apartments, the massive transformation of this building is a reminder that community members like Team Depot stand with them as they begin their new lives.

Team Depot volunteers led off the morning with an inspiring cheer, shouting, “Let’s give these vets the help they need!” The attitude of giving was the force behind upgrading three bathrooms and kitchens, including the floors, for each of the building’s apartments. Team Depot volunteers also repaired the front porch, replaced all the lighting fixtures, upgraded all the appliances, including washer-dryer units, stoves, and microwaves, and repainted the entire interior of the building.

Of the transformation, Program Director, Mike Herron says, “A fresh coat of paint can go a long way, but what they’re doing for us is going above and beyond.”

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For more about Team Depot’s activities throughout Celebration of Service, follow Team Depot on Twitter @teamdepot and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/teamdepot.
About Giving Back at The Home Depot
Since the first The Home Depot store opened in 1979, giving back has been a core value for the Company and a passion for its associates. Today, The Home Depot, in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation, focuses its philanthropic efforts on improving the homes and lives of U.S. military veterans and their families and aiding communities affected by natural disasters. Through Team Depot, the Company’s associate-led volunteer force, thousands of associates dedicate their time and talents to these efforts in the communities where they live and work.

Since 2011, The Home Depot Foundation has invested more than $80 million to provide safe housing to veterans, and along with the help of Team Depot volunteers, has transformed more than 12,000 homes for veterans. To learn more and see Team Depot in action, visit www.homedepotfoundation.org.

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Volunteers of America Massachusetts is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving those most in need, especially the vulnerable, the hardest to serve, and those facing multiple challenges. Our work touches the mind, body, heart, and spirit of those we serve. Volunteers of America Massachusetts provides comprehensive programs for veterans, at-risk youth, adults and youth in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, elders in need of housing and health services, and those in need of mental health treatment.