

For Immediate Release

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**Redwood City homeowner, Willie Lopez's, house to receive much needed repairs thanks to Rebuilding Together's 'Healthy Housing Challenge'**

*Wells Fargo contributes \$850,000 to challenge nationwide*

**WHO/WHAT:**

Eighty-two year old Willie Lopez has been a Redwood City homeowner for 44 years. After a successful career as a journalist working in his native Guatemala, in Chicago, the Central Valley and in the San Francisco Bay Area, he is now retired living in his home where he cherishes family mementos including family portraits that are over 100 years old, pictures of himself with famous celebrities, and even a letter from President Reagan's White House (Willie actually met with President Reagan in the oval office). Unfortunately his home has fallen into grave disrepair and his safety is a daily concern.



Staff from Rebuilding Together—Peninsula and a team of 40 volunteers from Wells Fargo will formally kick off the "Healthy Housing Challenge" by completing repairs to make Willie's home dramatically healthier and safer, so he can continue to organize his life's work and even finish the novel he is working on.

**WHEN/WHERE:**

WEDNESDAY, September 25, 2013  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
2121 Jefferson Avenue, Redwood City, CA

**WHY/BACKGROUND:**

Rebuilding Together Peninsula is one of nine organizations across the country that are leading the Healthy Housing Challenge. The Challenge provides tools, training, and additional funds to help Rebuilding Together affiliates make repairs at no charge to correct health and safety hazards in the homes of low-income families, seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities.

**Homeowners can apply for free repairs by visiting [www.rebuildingtogetherpeninsula.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetherpeninsula.org) or calling 650.366.6597.**

Nationwide, an estimated 30 million homes pose potential health threats that contribute to asthma and other respiratory diseases, carbon monoxide poisoning, lung cancer, falls, and burns, which add billions to national

health care costs. The good news is that most of these hazards can be corrected through relatively simple, low-cost repairs, such as repairing roofs and gutters, removing old carpeting, clearing clogged clothes dryer vents, adding ventilation, installing grab bars and handrails, and sealing gaps and cracks to keep out pests.

“The Healthy Housing Challenge gives us the ‘know how’ and extra financial resources we need to make our clients’ homes healthier and safer,” **said Seana O’Shaughnessy**, executive director of Rebuilding Together Peninsula. “Our model of mobilizing volunteers is the most cost-effective way possible to make high-risk homes healthier and safer. We hope other organizations will join Wells Fargo as sponsors of the Challenge, both nationally and locally.”

Wells Fargo helped launch the Challenge with a commitment of \$850,000 to build the capacity of 40 Rebuilding Together affiliates in communities across the country over the next three years. “Wells Fargo’s commitment to the Healthy Housing Challenge goes beyond money,” **said Wendy Haller**, president of Wells Fargo’s Peninsula market. “Team members are excited to volunteer to help Rebuilding Together kick-off the Healthy Housing Challenge and make Willie Lopez’s home safe so he can continue to live his golden years with a greater peace of mind.”

### **About Rebuilding Together Peninsula**

Rebuilding Together Peninsula builds volunteer partnerships to rehabilitate homes and community facilities for low-income people—elderly, people with disabilities and families—so they can live in warmth, safety and independence. Serving all of San Mateo and northern Santa Clara County, RTP is the largest organization on the Peninsula dedicated to preserving affordable housing and revitalizing communities. Each year, RTP works with thousands of volunteers to provide free home and roof repair services. Celebrating its 25-year history, RTP has restored over 1,100 homes and 320 community facilities with the help of 79,000 volunteers with an estimated reconstruction value of \$35 million dollars.

### **About Wells Fargo**

Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC) is a nationwide, diversified, community-based financial services company with \$1.4 trillion in assets. Founded in 1852 and headquartered in San Francisco, Wells Fargo provides banking, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer and commercial finance through more than 9,000 stores, 12,000 ATMs, and the Internet (wellsfargo.com), and has offices in more than 35 countries to support the bank’s customers who conduct business in the global economy. With more than 270,000 team members, Wells Fargo serves one in three households in the United States. Wells Fargo & Company was ranked No. 25 on Fortune’s 2013 rankings of America’s largest corporations. Wells Fargo’s vision is to satisfy all our customers’ financial needs and help them succeed financially. Wells Fargo perspectives are also available at [blog.wellsfargo.com](http://blog.wellsfargo.com). In 2012, the Company invested \$315.8 million in grants to 19,500 nonprofits, and team members contributed more than 1.5 million volunteer hours around the country. For more information, please visit: [www.wellsfargo.com/about/csr](http://www.wellsfargo.com/about/csr).

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