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Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago, Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 73 and SMACNA Greater Chicago Host 'Warm the Metro' Initiative

CHICAGO, Ill. (November 3, 2022) – In anticipation of cold winter months ahead, low-income homeowners in Chicago and Chicago Heights are receiving free furnace and boiler tune-ups to keep them safe and warm. This initiative is a result of a partnership between Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago, Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 73, and SMACNA Greater Chicago.

This effort, which initially grew out of the COVID-19 pandemic, helped to broaden the services provided to the families and elderly homeowners they serve as a way to continue to provide a safer, more secure home environment for area residents. Now in its third year, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago's partnership with Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 73 and SMACNA Greater Chicago is a way to provide warmer, safer home environments for low-income families in preparation for winter. This initiative, called Warm the Metro, enlists Union members and local HVAC contractors to visit up to 50 homes annually, providing free tune-up services on boilers and furnaces.

"Furnace and boiler tune-ups are exactly the type of support our homeowners need to stay safe and warm through the winter. We are delighted to continue this partnership for a third year, and so grateful to our SMACNA and Local 73 friends," said Wanda Ramirez, CEO of Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago.

In addition to providing improved heating efficiency, safety, and indoor comfort, a regular furnace tune-up can spell the difference between a five- to 10-year to a 15- to 20-year life expectancy for the heating system. To complete the tune-ups, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago partnered with South Suburban Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc, and RD's HVAC, Inc. for the Warm the Metro initiative.

"The men and women of Sheet Metal Workers' Local 73 have a long history of giving back to our community", said Local 73 President & Business Manager Raymond Suggs. "We are proud to work with Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago to Warm the Metro in preparation for winter. The danger posed by COVID-19 makes it more important than ever to have a safe, warm, comfortable home to protect residents' health and safety this winter. We look forward to future partnerships with Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago and continuing to provide and give back our services to those in need."

"SMACNA Greater Chicago is proud to be a partner of Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago. Any opportunity for our Local 73 contractors to share their knowledge and expertise to help improve local neighborhoods is an

honor,” said Joe Passannante, President of SMACNA Greater Chicago. “Our partnership with this invaluable nonprofit will not only help provide critical home repairs for people in need, it’s also a great way to give back to the community that supports our local contractors.”

Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago repairs homes and revitalizes communities in Chicago and suburban Cook County. Since 1991, we have repaired 1,900 homes and 285 community facilities, with the assistance of tens of thousands of volunteers. We work in partnership with neighbors, community leaders, trade unions, service clubs, companies, and volunteers to improve Chicagoland homes and neighborhoods. Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is an affiliate of Rebuilding Together, Inc., a national nonprofit organization. Follow @RTMetroChicago on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) or visit rebuildingtogether-chi.com.

Chartered in 1892, SMART **Sheet Metal Workers’ Local Union 73** is dedicated to maintaining the highest skilled workforce in the Chicagoland area. With more than 4,400 members, we provide services to all of Cook and Lake Counties. Our members are experts in the industry who are committed to the highest standards of safety and professionalism. For more information, visit <https://www.smw73.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/sheetmetal73/>

SMACNA Greater Chicago provides a common voice in legislative issues and labor relations for contractors involved with heating, ventilating, air conditioning, architectural sheet metal work, pollution control, materials handling, roofing, testing and balancing, and retrofitting. SMACNA Greater Chicago provides its members with the latest training, information, and services vital to maintaining their edge in the sheet metal industry. Visit <https://www.smacnagreaterchicago.org/> for more information.