



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rebuilding Together Fundraiser

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mariko Yamada will be a featured speaker at a fundraising breakfast on Friday, May 18, 8:00 a.m., at the U.C. Davis Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center, to benefit the expansion into Yolo County of Rebuilding Together, a non-profit organization which provides home repair and modification services to seniors and disabled individuals. This fundraiser is free of charge and is designed to raise support and inform the community about Rebuilding Together and their services.

Rebuilding Together has provided over 1,000 home repair and modification services to seniors and disabled individuals in the Sacramento area, allowing them to continue to live independently in their own homes. Modifications include the installation of grab bars, specialized railings, wheelchair ramps, smoke detectors, shower assist devices and more, and are completed by teams of volunteers who are trained in the proper installation of these types of safety devices. Rebuilding Together would like to expand their fall prevention services into Yolo County and are partnering with the Triad Task Force, a public/private collaboration of agencies and county service providers – the action arm of the Yolo County Commission on Aging & Adult Services (YCCA&AS). Together they propose a program to assist not only older, low income adults, but all disabled individuals of every income level in becoming safer in and around their homes, by offering home safety education and evaluation, and minor or major home modifications at reasonable fees, or no cost for those of low income.

“The statistics on elder falls aren’t pretty,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mariko Yamada. “Falls are the number two trauma call in our five-county emergency services region. Four out of ten nursing home admissions are fall-related, yet about two-thirds of these falls were preventable. Elder falls—not heart disease, stroke, or even Alzheimer’s—is the number one reason for seniors’ loss of independence.”

Heidi D’Agostino, Yolo County Code Compliance & Business Licensing Officer, and Dan Stroski, Yolo County District Attorney’s office, will also be featured speakers. Both have been involved in recent sting operations by the Yolo Unlicensed Response Apprehension Team (YoU RAT). Comprised of the District Attorney’s Fraud Investigators Office, Yolo County Code Enforcement, other local law enforcement, the California State Contractors Board and the Department of Insurance Investigators, YoU RAT identifies unfair business practices that occur with unlicensed contractors, businesses and trades in Yolo County. Unlicensed contractors often prey on the elderly and vulnerable by not performing the work they are paid for, or by doing substandard work.

Also speaking will be Carrie Grip, Executor Director, Rebuilding Together; Elaine Roberts Musser, Chairwoman of the Triad Task Force and YCCA&AS Commissioner; Marjorie Dickinson, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, U.C. Davis Government & Community Relations; Maggie Burns, Board of Directors, Yolo Community Foundation; and David Grantham, Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist. Additionally Ted Puntillo, Yolo County Veterans Services Officer and Heidi D’Agostino will present on a recent housing rehabilitation project in Yolo County.

This free informational breakfast will be held Friday, May 18, 2007, 8:00-9:30 a.m. at the U.C. Davis Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center. For more information, or to RSVP, call (916) 455-1880, ext. 0.

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