



Thursday: For Sale! Non-Profits Transform Abandoned Rankin House into Move-in Ready, Affordable Home

Media are invited for a house tour, before-and-after photos, and the ceremonial FOR SALE sign installation as the house goes onto the market.

Rankin, Pa. – Thursday, Oct. 6 – A newly-renovated house, which had been blighted and abandoned for more than a decade, will go on sale this week, ready to welcome new homeowners to Rankin. This transformation is the result of cooperation between two local non-profits dedicated to stabilizing blighted and abandoned properties and preserving safe, healthy and affordable homeownership. The home is priced to be affordable to a person or family living with a modest income and priority will be given to potential buyers that are living with special needs.

[Before and After photos are viewable here.](#)

Media are invited to join community leaders and the public for a tour of the home, to see before and after photos, and for the ceremonial installation of the “FOR SALE” sign out front.

“After nearly a decade and a half vacant, this house is going to be a home again. This property is no longer a drain on public resources; it is now a family home that will enrich our community. This transformation is possible because of the incredible partnerships between community leaders, public officials, non-profits, and philanthropic pioneers. Abandoned properties are a major problem in our region. They lower quality of life in our neighborhoods, not to mention property values. But when we work together, there is no problem we can’t solve. This is the work that Tri-COG Land Bank was designed to do,” said An Lewis, Executive Director of Tri-COG Land Bank.

“Our region has two big challenges: abandoned houses, and the need for safe, healthy and affordable housing. This innovative project lets us use one problem to solve the other. I want to emphasize innovative. There is no roadmap for this type of collaboration; we are the first. We are excited to put home-ownership in reach of a new neighbor, and optimistic about more projects we have coming soon,” said Alan Sisco, CEO of Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh.

The history of the house in the 100 block of Fifth Avenue, Rankin, in the Woodland Hills School District:

1. The house on Fifth Avenue in Rankin had been vacant and abandoned since at least 2008. Over time, it fell into disrepair and became a nuisance to the neighborhood.
2. Tri-COG Land Bank acquired this house in March 2021 and secured clear title, using a special legal process for properties that are vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent. The property was cleared of all outstanding debt.
3. Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh (RTP), using funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh and First Commonwealth Bank, purchased the house in March 2022. Using its network of contractors, RTP professionally renovated this spring and summer.

4. The house is now available for sale. In alignment with the organizations' affordable housing mission, and faithful to the funding requirements, the home is priced to be affordable to a person or family living with a modest income and priority will be given to potential buyers that are living with special needs.

Members of the public, including interested buyers, can learn more about the home and the definition of special needs, at RTPittsburgh.org on Thursday, Oct. 6.

MEDIA RSVPs ARE REQUESTED.

WHO: Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh
Tri-COG Land Bank
Community leaders

WHAT: FOR SALE sign installation
Open House
Before and after photos
Interviews

WHEN: Thursday, October 6, 2022
11:30am – 1:30pm Open House
11:45am FOR SALE sign installation

WHERE: 131 5th Ave.
Rankin, PA 15104

Note: For privacy considerations, media are requested to refer to the location as the 100 block of Fifth Ave. in Rankin.

About Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh (RTP) rehabilitates homes for low-income individuals with an emphasis on seniors, veterans and persons with disabilities with the lasting impact of stabilizing and revitalizing the region's neighborhoods, because everyone deserves to live in a safe and healthy home. The majority of RTP's work is completed in places identified as Comprehensive Impact Neighborhoods. Since its foundation in 1993, RTP has grown into a nonprofit organization with an annual budget of more than \$6 million that supports the work of 22 staff, dozens of professional sub-contractors and more than 1,000 volunteers completing more than 100 physical rehabilitation projects annually for low-income homeowners in Allegheny County. **For more information, visit rtpittsburgh.org.**

About Tri-COG Land Bank

Tri-COG Land Bank is a public body organized under the Pennsylvania Land Bank Act, as well as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tri-COG Land Bank revitalizes neighborhoods by transitioning abandoned properties to beneficial reuse. TCLB is committed to a transparent and community-driven process that benefits both neighborhoods and their residents. Since its founding in 2017 by the Steel Rivers Council of Governments and the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments, Tri-COG Land Bank has acquired 84 properties and sold 33. **For more information, visit tricoglandbank.org.**

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