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## **Breathe California of the Bay Area readies for office overhaul**

SAN JOSE – The local clean air and healthy lungs leader is getting ready to breathe easier.

This month, Breathe California of the Bay Area (BCBA) is the fortunate beneficiary of dozens of helping hands to improve its aging office and furnishings to better serve Silicon Valley.

The project centers on next Saturday's Rebuilding Day, a bi-annual repair blitz that pulls together hundreds of volunteers and dozens of sponsors to repair nonprofit facilities. Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the organizer Rebuilding Together, selected BCBA's 30-year-old building in the Rose Garden as one of its projects.

BCBA promotes healthy lungs through its Sleep Safe program, asthma education, tobacco education, and environmental stewardship.

Over the course of next weekend, the Rebuilding Day plan, led by XL Construction, includes repairing structural wear and tear, a fresh paint job, and new landscaping – thanks to a team of over forty contractors and construction professionals donating their time and materials.

What's more for BCBA, the renovation made for ideal timing to apply for furniture and equipment donations for its refreshed office, where staff and volunteers meet with neighbors in need five days a week.

For furniture, BCBA turned to Green Standards, an environmental firm that works with corporations to redistribute surplus office equipment and supplies responsibly.

Green Standards connected BCBA to recycled cubicles, tables, chairs and kitchen equipment. The Rebuilding Day volunteers quickly signed on to assemble the furniture and remove the old. BCBA staff and volunteers relocated the office's used furniture to local veterans and business owners who are happy to provide a home to BCBA's stuff.

"Reduce, reuse, and recycle right here at home," says Illyasha Peete, BCBA's executive director, noting that the pay-it-forward donations further her organization's commitment to locality.

With the upcoming renovation and upgraded furnishings, BCBA hopes to better serve Silicon Valley with its new Sleep Safe program, which helps neighbors manage sleep apnea, as well as to boost classes in asthma education, expand its tobacco cessation program and launch new environmental stewardship collaborations.

"Since I started at BCBA, I have noticed what a huge impact we have on the community with all the services we provide," says Vanessa Elgohary, an intern at BCBA. "With the much-needed renovations, I believe that we will have an even greater impact and provide even more resources."

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