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## Americorps rebuilding derelict house

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BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB) - Volunteers are teaming up to make Buffalo a better place. Americorps continues to rebuild the community and lives.

425 Normal Avenue used to be a drug house, a cancer to this struggling neighborhood on Buffalo's West Side. But in just a few short days, it will be transformed into a community hub for change. Local volunteers are giving it a top-to-bottom renovation, to kick off "Americorps Week 2012."

Buffalo Americorps Program Coordinator Jacqueline Ornsby said, "51 Corps members are coming together to scrape, paint, get rid of mold and add the TLC to make this a beautiful, reusable facility."

They're being joined by members of partner organizations, including The Belle Center, It Takes a Village, AMVETS and WNY Prisoner Re-entry Coalition.

"This is the very, very beginning... It's a little bit of everything. It's just basically the cleanup. You come in, get all the debris removal, make sure it's a safe working environment first. And just assess what you need to do, and move on from there," said volunteer Marco Marrero.

Volunteer Stacy Lagares added, "I'm cleaning up right now. I took out the garbage, the rug so far."

Americorps Week is a special time to focus on community empowerment. Every year, volunteers carve out time during that week for projects ranging from neighborhood beautification, to disaster assistance, to improving education, to helping veterans and military families -- right in the places where they live.

"It's a good chance to help out, domestically... with the community and the culture, and just trying to give back to the community. I was thinking about the Peace Corps, at first. And I was like, "You know what? Let's start at home." It's a really good opportunity," said Marrero.

425 Normal is becoming a symbol of opportunity. It will now serve as a transitional house.