Joana is the primary caregiver for five family members; her three sons that are diagnosed with autism, an elderly sister, and her devoted husband. Dedicated to her community, Joana volunteers with the Achieve Program where she reads to students and runs a support group for parents with children that have special needs. Her family has lived in their Dorchester home for several decades. Joana has been able to perform a few modifications such as replacing her porch and roof, repairing windows, and installing pipes, but there was significantly more work to be done.

Joana suffers from Lymphedema and is confined to crutches. Her condition has rendered her unable to work, and the financial and physical burden of home maintenance became too much to bare. Joana began to realize that she needed help.

Last fall, she found the answer she was looking for when she reached out to Rebuilding Together Boston. With support from Pro Teck, a real estate appraisal company, Rebuilding Together Boston helped weatherize the home, replaced failing doors and windows, repaired the damaged ceiling, and rebuilt the front porch. These safety modifications and exterior repairs helped restore the quality to Joana’s home, and she is no longer burdened with home and safety concerns. Now, her family has a safe and healthy home to live in for many more decades to come. Rebuilding Together Boston strives to preserve affordable housing for families like Joana’s.