

Community



builders

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A Publication of the
Home Builders Association of
St. Louis and Eastern Missouri

HBA Mission Statement:

To help create a region in which the association promotes and protects the viability of the building industry by serving its members, who strive to meet the housing needs of all Americans.

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HBA Members Renovating Facility for The Center for Women in Transition



Photo by Michael Marxer

Two clients from The Center for Women in Transition, **Brenda Whitfield** and **Misty Reese**, (front) are shown with HBA members **Mark Waters** of **Hoffmann Plumbing**, **Dave Dunlap** of **Consolidated Construction Group**, **Roger Kepner** of **Landmark Builders** and **Mike Duenke** of **Duenke Waterproofing** who have been instrumental in the on-going remodeling of the dorm facility at the center. This project is a "bricks and mortar" effort of the Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF). A "bricks and mortar" project is an effort where HBA members raise money as well as spearhead the construction on a shelter project to benefit our community. The Center for Women in Transition works with, and on behalf of, women in prison for non-violent crimes, during incarceration and after release to help them transition back into society.

The Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) traditionally gives funding to shelter related organizations so they can use their expertise to provide housing for those who need it the most. This time the HBA is not only giving

money to the project, but HBA members are serving as project managers, suppliers and installers to renovate the dorm facility for The Center for Women in Transition (CWIT).

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The Center for Women in Transition ... continued from page 1

CWIT began in 1997 when a socially conscious group of women voiced their dreams for a better society. Some of the women had been involved with criminal justice system ministry; some had been on the other side of the experience. Both groups shared the same dream – to help women in prison for non-violent crimes – especially mothers with children. Their goal was to provide necessary resources to get these women out of the system and back with family and society.

Renovations to the facility include turning the unfinished basements in each of the units into space where the residents will have somewhere to learn new skills and spend time with their families.

“Our industry is extremely generous,” said HBA Executive Vice

President **Pat Sullivan**. “The Center for Women in Transition project is one of the latest examples of how home builders and their many trade partners show that they care about the welfare of the St. Louis region. The generosity of HBA members has always amazed me. They are very busy people who are working long hours already just running their businesses and keeping them profitable. And yet they routinely make time to support everything from little league baseball and softball teams to shelter projects for those with special needs. These members are exemplary citizens.”

HBA builder member **Dave Dunlap** of **Consolidated Construction Group** is overseeing jobsite construction and acting as the project manager. ■

Mandated Fire Sprinkler Proposal Defeated; Keeps Housing Affordable

The proposed fire sprinkler mandate for one- and two-family dwellings and town homes was defeated at the International Codes Council hearings in Rochester, N.Y. recently. This model code is, in turn, adopted by most local governments across the country, including many local governments in our region.

On the surface it may seem that fire sprinklers in new homes would mean more people would be protected from fire. However, fire sprinklers cost an estimated \$4,800 or more per new home. National economic data reported by the U.S. Census Bureau and published in the *Wall Street Journal* states that for every \$1,000 increase in the cost of housing prices thousands of potential home buyers

would be priced out of the market. This would force millions of families to live in far older homes that are far less fire safe.

Fire sprinklers in residences are not any safer than hard-wired, battery backed-up smoke detectors. Sprinklers will age and require consistent, reliable maintenance and inspections. If not properly maintained, the system can provide a false sense of security.

Smoke detectors are the true answer for protecting the public, and we encourage all local governments to make sure its citizens are aware of the importance of smoke detectors and of replacing smoke detector batteries on a regular basis. ■

The Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) Donates \$10,000 to Rebuilding Together St. Louis



The Home Builders Charitable Foundation, the HBA's charitable arm, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing housing assistance to people or organizations with special shelter needs. ■



Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) President **Harold Burkemper** of **First Construction of St. Charles** (left) and HBCF key contributor **Brett Hardesty** of **Hardesty Homes** (right) presented a \$10,000 donation to **Laura Hurt**, development director/associate executive director of **Rebuilding Together St. Louis** (second from left), and **Lynne Rajani**, executive director of **Rebuilding Together St. Louis**, on behalf of the HBCF. The funds will be used to sponsor projects during the organization's "Rebuilding Day." *Rebuilding Together St. Louis revitalizes neighborhoods in partnership with the community by rehabilitating the houses of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and the disabled, so that they may continue to live independently in comfort and safety.*

Did You Know? The Good on Green:

- Two percent of homes built in 2006 were considered "green"? By 2010, that number will rise to an estimated 10% of homes built?
- You can make 20 cans out of recycled material with the same amount of energy it takes to make one new one?
- It takes approximately one million years for a glass bottle to break down at the landfill?
- Preventing one ton of paper waste saves 15 to 17 mature trees?

The HBA's Green Building Council promotes the use of green building practices through its Green Building

Initiative-St. Louis (GBI-St. Louis) verification program.

HBA builder member **Gene Reuther** of **H-R Construction 1, LLC** was the first builder to apply for verification in the St. Louis region and the first in the United States to be verified under the National Association of Home Builders *Model Green Building Guidelines*. Recently, two more homes, built by HBA builder member **C.F. Vatterott Construction Co.**, have been certified "green." Several HBA builder members are moving through the GBI-St. Louis verification program and should receive verification soon. ■

Smart Growth Principles

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) sees smart growth as absolutely essential to the creation of thriving communities across the nations. The home builders have a balanced and progressive smart growth policy with five principles at the core:

- **Meeting the nation's housing demand with a broad mix of housing choices:** A community must plan for and accommodate its anticipated growth in economic activity, population and housing demand.
- **A comprehensive process for planning growth:** Local jurisdictions should establish long-term comprehensive plans that make available an ample supply of land for residential, commercial, recreation and industrial uses as well as for open space.
- **Innovative land use techniques that use land more efficiently**
- **Planning and funding for long-term infrastructure needs**
- **Revitalization of cities and inner suburbs:** Revitalizing older suburban and inner city markets and encouraging infill development is universally accepted as good public policy.

Smart growth is about smart choices. If those who can influence growth make choices that really seek to balance the needs of the environment, the economy and social needs, then this nation can begin to enjoy the benefits of smart growth. ■

Source: National Association of Home Builders
Smart Growth, Smart Choices

Builder Highlights

Youth In Need Presents HBA with “Thanks for Giving” Award



HBA Executive Vice President **Pat Sullivan** (left) and Home Builders Charitable Foundation President **Harold Burkemper** of **First Construction of St. Charles** accepted a Spirit of Philanthropy Award for Outstanding Foundation/Organization Partner from Youth In Need on behalf of the HBA. Youth In Need honored all of its volunteers and donors at “Thanks for Giving,” an annual recognition reception.

HBA Builder Member HomeSource Custom Homes Raises Money for Child Center-Marygrove

HBA builder member **Carla Grewe** of **HomeSource Custom Homes** chaired the “Have a Heart, Build the Future” Gala Fashion Show and Auction benefiting Child Center-Marygrove. Grewe helped to raise \$250,000 from the event. HomeSource also hosted a barbecue to celebrate 20 years in business with proceeds going to Marygrove. Child Center-Marygrove is a new beginning and permanent home to 130 children and young adults, ages 6-21, who suffer from emotional disorders due to a history of severe domestic abuse, violence and neglect.

HBA Associate Member Saint Louis Closet Company Reaches Out to “Friends of Wings”



After HBA associate member and owner **Jennifer Williams** of **Saint Louis Closet Co.** (right) was Honorary Chair for BJC Friends of Wings Hospice Care program’s Big Bear Brunch, she and her employees decided to collect donations to help the children participating in the program and its new art therapy treatments. Saint Louis Closet Co. collected more than \$2,000 worth of art supplies and stuffed animals for Friends of Wings, a pediatric end-of-life care program for children in the St. Louis area.

HBA Associate Member Mid-West Floor and Its Employees Collect Items for Boys & Girls Town

Employees of HBA associate member **Mid-West Floor** collected more than \$500 worth of toys, clothes and necessities for the children of Boys & Girls Town in St. James, Mo. Mid-West Floor then matched the employee’s donation. Some of the children had never received a “new” gift. Using a strength-based approach, Boys & Girls Town of Missouri helps children focus on positive behaviors that can lead to improved self-esteem and, ultimately, positive relationships with their peers and adults.

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