

Community



builders

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A Publication of the
Home Builders Association
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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The HBA and Habitat for Humanity-St. Charles Welcome the Hoffmann Family Home



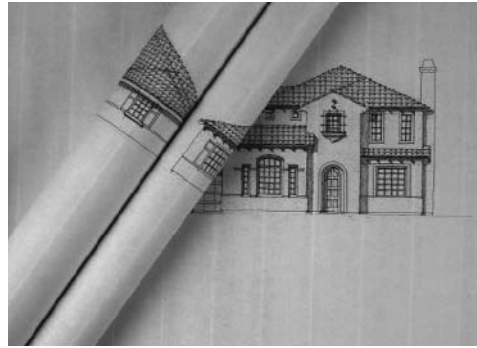
Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles President Colleen Bussen, the Hoffmann Family (Aaron, Carolyn, Michael, 10, and Paige, 7), project manager Scott Kerns of Vantage Homes and 2006 HBA President Ken Stricker of Consort Homes are pictured in front of the Hoffmann family's home in Wentzville.

At the end of April, 2006 HBA President **Ken Stricker** of **Consort Homes** handed over the keys to a new Habitat for Humanity Home to Aaron, Carolyn, Michael and Paige Hoffmann. HBA members raised more than \$85,000 in

cash, materials and labor to build the home. The Hoffmann family is originally from Wentzville and moved to New Orleans in 2004. After losing everything in Hurricane Katrina, they moved back to the area to live with family. n



Homeownership Brings Benefits To Individuals, Communities and the Country



Today, nearly 70 percent of American families own their own home, up from 62 percent in 1960. During that time, the population has grown by more than 119 million people and the median price of a new home has increased to \$240,000 from \$18,000.

Even with this period of rising prosperity and recent low interest rates, millions of people are finding it increasingly difficult to buy an affordable home in the communities where they work. Our nation's teachers, firefighters, police officers, nurses and other middle-income individuals provide the essential services we depend on, and yet cannot afford to own a home where they work.

NAHB and its 850 state and local affiliates are working hard to make affordable workforce housing a reality across the country and a priority for our nation's leadership so that the benefits of homeownership can be reaped by all. In the next decade alone, home builders will need to construct about 1.8 million new homes and apartment units each year. Restrictive policies and legislation hamper this growth, adding to the rising cost of housing. Communities need to come together for a collective solution that promotes builder investment and policies that advance affordable housing for all of its citizens.

Owning a home is paramount to achieving the American Dream. To find out more about how that dream can become a reality, and for further consumer information about the benefits of homeownership, visit www.nahb.org/forconsumers. n

Source: National Association of Home Builders

The benefits of homeownership are widely publicized, and for good reason: There are plenty. But they reach beyond just financial benefits, homeownership has powerful social and economic benefits as well – for our families, our communities and our country.

Financially, homeownership provides Americans with the biggest tax break on the books – the deductibility of mortgage interest and property taxes. A home is also a stable investment that appreciates in value over time, increasing a homeowner's borrowing power and allowing them to build equity and a nest egg for retirement. Economically, construction employs 7.3 million people and housing activity accounts for 16 percent of the GDP. Socially, homeownership is associated with better educational opportunities, lower teenage pregnancy rates and higher lifetime annual incomes.

“Housing makes a significant contribution to our national economy and it's important that we recognize that contribution,” said David Pressly, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) president. “But, despite that, not all Americans have an opportunity to share in the dream of homeownership. Our members strive to make homeownership a reality for hard-working Americans every day.”

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The Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) Donates More Than \$37,000 to Local Shelter Programs in the Second Quarter of 2006



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

Since making its first contribution in 1998, HBCF recently surpassed one million dollars in giving to shelter-related charities in the St. Louis area and shows no signs of stopping. More than 40 local shelter organizations, including the five listed on this page, have been helped by HBCF. n

HBCF Donates \$7,500 to Life Skills for Renovations



2006 HBA President **Ken Stricker** of **Consort Homes** presented a \$7,500 contribution to **Wendy Buehler**, president of **Life Skills**. The donation will be used for six kitchen renovations in apartment buildings, owned and operated by Life Skills, which are the individual home units for 48 of the organization's clients with developmental disabilities.

Marygrove Presented with a \$7,500 Donation



HBCF President **Harold Burkemper** of **First Construction of St. Charles** (left) and 2006 HBA President **Ken Stricker** of **Consort Homes** presented a \$7,500 donation to **Peggy Plont**, director of public relations and development for Marygrove. The donation will help with bathroom renovations in **Sequoia House**, a transitional services home for young women, ages 17 to 21.

St. Vincent Home for Children Receives \$5,000 from HBCF



HBCF President **Harold Burkemper** of **First Construction of St. Charles** (left) and 2006 HBA President **Ken Stricker** of **Consort Homes** (right) presented a \$5,000 donation to **John Chickey**, board of directors vice chairman for **St. Vincent Home for Children**, and **Jo Curran**, director of development for **St. Vincent**, a residential treatment center for victims of abuse and neglect, ages 6 – 16.

\$15,000 to The Women's Safe House



HBCF President **Harold Burkemper** of **First Construction of St. Charles** (left) and 2006 HBA President **Ken Stricker** of **Consort Homes** (right) presented a \$15,000 donation to **Sylvia Jackson**, executive director of **The Women's Safe House**, and **Jennifer Bush**, development director of **The Women's Safe House**. The funds will be used for repairs and preventative maintenance to the shelter to address health and safety issues.

Beyond Housing/NHS Receives \$2,500 from HBCF



HBCF President **Harold Burkemper** of **First Construction of St. Charles** (left) presented a \$2,500 donation to **Chris Krehmeyer**, executive director of **Beyond Housing/Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS)**. The funds will be used for capital improvements at one of **Beyond Housing/NHS's** 220 scatter-site homes located throughout **St. Louis County**.

Builder Highlights

HBA Builder Member Fischer & Frichtel Honored with National Head Start Award



Youth In Need President and CEO Jim Braun and HBA builder member John Fischer (Fischer &

The National Head Start Association (NHSA) presented its 2004/2005 Corporate Award to HBA builder member **Fischer & Frichtel** for the firm's "Building A Future" campaign. The multimedia charitable program was a cooperative effort of the builder, its industry associates and KSDK-TV, and in 2005, generated a

donation of \$80,000 to Youth In Need (YIN). The project focused on the construction of a luxury home at Fischer & Frichtel's Spring Mill community in St. Charles. All profits for the sale of the home were contributed to YIN. Youth In Need is a multi-services agency serving children, youth and families throughout Eastern Missouri and a Head Start grantee. The organization has been selected as the campaign beneficiary for the past two years.

HBA Builder Member BAM Construction Named One of the Fastest Growing Companies



Brian Murphy

HBA builder member **BAM Construction** has been named to the 2006 Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) and *Inc. Magazine* Inner City 100 list, a group of fast-growing inner-city companies from around the country. With an impressive 138.2% standard five-year growth, BAM Construction was ranked 86.

Established in 1997, the company employs more than 100 and provides concrete and carpentry services for commercial and residential projects. "Being recognized as one of the nation's fastest growing inner-city firms is a huge accomplishment and reflection on our entire company," says CEO **Brian Murphy**. "This award is especially meaningful to me because of my passion for the City of St. Louis. It shows that city locations make good business sense."

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