

Community



builders

Spring 2009

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

HBA Mission Statement:

The Home Builders Association of Greater St. Louis and Eastern Missouri helps create a region that promotes and protects the viability of the building industry by serving our members, who strive to meet the housing needs of our neighbors.

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HBA Associates' Auction Raises \$43,000 for Charitable Foundation



2009 HBA Associates' Charitable Auction Committee Chairman **Charlie Bennett** of **C. Bennett Building Supply** (left) presented a \$43,000 check to Home Builders Charitable Foundation President **Rick Sullivan**. The money was raised at the HBA Associates' Charitable Auction held in January. In the last two years the Associates' Auction has raised more than \$104,000 for the HBCF.

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 has given more than \$1.5 million to more than 50 local

organizations that help those with special shelter needs. Some organizations benefitting from HBCF include: Access-Able, Carondelet Community Betterment Federation, Edgewood Children's Center, Habitat for Humanity, Magnificat Center, Our Lady's Inn and St. Joachim and Ann Care Services. ■



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Fisherhouse in St. Louis Update



Artist rendering of the new Fisherhouse in St. Louis facility. Fisherhouse provides free, temporary lodging to the families of military personnel or veterans undergoing treatment in military or VA hospitals.

In May 2008, the Home Builders Charitable Foundation presented a \$10,000 donation to Fisherhouse in St. Louis to help in its capital campaign to raise the necessary funds to construct a Fisherhouse facility at the St. Louis VA Medical Center at Jefferson Barracks. Fisherhouse facilities provide, free of charge, comfortable, temporary lodging to the families of military personnel or military veterans undergoing treatment in military or VA hospitals. The facility will have 21 bedrooms providing capacity for 42 individuals, with a common living room, dining room and kitchen area.

To date, the local organization has raised \$1.5 million of its \$2.5 million goal. The national Fisherhouse Foundation will supply the additional \$2.5 million to complete the project. Construction of the St. Louis house has begun and should take 12-18 months to complete. There are approximately 45 Fisherhouses in operation today serving more than 10,000 families of active military personnel and veterans who previously served our nation.

The St. Louis VA Medical Center has been designated as a "Polytrauma Center" for treating veterans wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. To provide treatment for veterans suffering from single or multiple traumas, specialized care is provided for traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, advanced prosthetics and mental health. The largest number of veterans visiting the medical facility will continue to be veterans from past conflicts and service.

Go to www.fisherhouseinstl.org to learn more about this organization. ■

HBA Executive Vice President Presented \$1,000 Reward to Man Reporting Jobsite Theft



HBA Executive Vice President Pat Sullivan (left) presented a \$1,000 reward check to Mike Bess of Moscow Mills. Bess reported suspicious activity at a McBride & Son home under construction in St. Louis County which led to the arrest and conviction of a man stealing more than \$500 worth of materials. The HBA Rewards Program gives monetary rewards to those who provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of, or guilty plea by, anyone committing acts of arson, vandalism or stealing at new construction job sites.

The HBA Donates More Than \$20,000 to Local Shelter Organizations



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HBCF Donates \$12,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters



2009 HBA President **Dan Barnard** of **Greater Missouri Builders** (left) and Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) contributor **Jim Rolwes** of **Rolwes Homes** (right) presented a \$12,000 donation to **Melissa Bode**, vice president of major gifts for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, on behalf of the HBCF. The donation will help fund Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) 2009 BIG "Making It Home" project. The donation will cover costs associated with the renovation of one home for a young person participating in the organization's mentoring program. In addition to the renovation, BBBS will hold home maintenance workshops for parents. Upon completion of the workshops, BBBS will give several "mini grants" to parents for home upgrades. The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to provide a mentor for every child who wants and needs one.

Little Sisters of the Poor Receives \$10,000 From HBCF



2009 HBA President **Dan Barnard** of **Greater Missouri Builders** (left) and Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) contributor **Jim Rolwes** of **Rolwes Homes** (right) presented a \$10,000 donation to **Sister Marguerite, I.s.p.**, of Little Sisters of the Poor, on behalf of the HBCF. The donation will be used to repair a roof on an apartment building operated by Little Sisters of the Poor. Since 1869, Little Sisters of the Poor has cared for thousands of the area's needy elderly, offering them a home in which they can feel a sense of respect, safety and love as they journey toward eternal life. The organization operates independent "home" living, senior apartments, nursing care and a senior center.



Enhanced Tax Credit Provides Outstanding Opportunity for First-Time Home Buyers

In its efforts to stimulate the economy and revive the housing market, Congress has enacted legislation providing a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for first-time home buyers. But time is of the essence for buyers who want to take advantage of this opportunity. Only homes purchased on or after January 1, 2009, and before December 1, 2009, are eligible.

- The tax credit is for first-time home buyers only.
- The tax credit does not have to be repaid.
- The tax credit is equal to 10 percent of the home's purchase price up to a maximum of \$8,000.
- Single taxpayers with incomes up to \$75,000 and married couples with incomes up to \$150,000 qualify for the full tax credit.

Go to www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com for more information.

The Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) has also announced plans for a tax credit advance program which will monetize \$6,750 of the \$8,000 tax credit for first-time buyers who need downpayment money now. The HBA worked for months under the leadership of HBA builder member **Ken Stricker** of **Consort Homes** to make this a reality. The best information can be found at www.mhdc.com under "Homeownership."

Builder Highlights

HBA Builder Member Belcher Homes Diverts Nearly 394 Tons of Material From Landfill in 2008



Matt Belcher

HBA builder member **Belcher Homes** recently received certification that it diverted 233.8 tons of materials from the normal waste stream that would otherwise have gone to area landfills on its latest de-construction project in Kirkwood from Eco-Recycling, Inc. This amounted to 80 percent of the entire home and does not account for

all of the interior doors, cabinetry and other items that were removed prior to the demolition. This brings the total amount of materials that Belcher Homes has diverted to 393.7 tons in 2008 all at no increase to client's budgets. The de-constructed home will be replaced with a new green home.

HBA Members Included in RCGA Top 50 Awards

The St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association and the St. Louis office of Deloitte & Touche presented the 13th Annual Greater St. Louis Top 50 Awards in December. Companies are selected based on their significant contributions to the St. Louis region. Three HBA associate members were included: **Ameren Corporation, The Lawrence Group and Thompson Coburn.**

HBA Builder Members Awarded Businesspersons of the Year



Cindy Roeser

HBA builder members **Cindy and Joe Roeser** of **Roeser Home Remodeling** received Businesspersons of the Year from the Kirkwood-Des Peres Area Chamber of Commerce for their service to the community. The couple serves on several community organizations and also helped with the ABC-TV "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" build in Shrewsbury.

HBA Associate Member Bax Engineering Recognized by Concrete Pavement Association

HBA associate member **Bax Engineering** has been selected as the winner by Missouri/Kansas American Concrete Pavement Association in the Special Concrete Overlay category for the Twin Chimneys Elementary School Parking Lot project. Bax was recognized at the 29th Annual MO/KS Portland Cement Concrete Paving Conference as best PCC pavement construction for the 2008 year in Missouri and Kansas.

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