

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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Center for Women in Transition Project Nearing Completion

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).

CWIT 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 Center provides a safe and nurturing environment that allows women to learn life skills and become productive members of society.

Renovations to the facility include turning the unfinished basements in each of the units into a learning center and welcoming room for the apartment residents. To date, new windows have been installed, floor cracks have been sealed, the sump



Project manager and HBA builder member **Dennis Boxdorfer** of **Denco Construction Services** (left) checked the wiring with HBA associate member **Gus Catanzaro** of **J-Mar Plumbing** and **Steve Miller** of **Denco Construction Services**.

pumps are pumping and new gas meters and electric boxes have been installed. In three of the eight resident's apartments, new tile had to be installed after leaks in the plumbing were discovered in the bathrooms.

HBA builder member **Dennis Boxdorfer** of **Denco Construction Services** has taken over as project manager and anticipates a mid-January completion. More than 16 HBA builder and associate member companies have donated products or services to the CWIT renovations. ■



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Youth In Need's Transitional Living Program Gets a Home Makeover with Help from the Home Builders Charitable Foundation

In 2007 the Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) donated \$15,000 to Youth In Need's (YIN) Transitional Living Program Group Home for residential renovations. The funds allowed YIN to make extensive improvements throughout the home including a completely refurbished girls' bathroom (with new floor, toilet, shower sink and window) and new laminate flooring in the bedrooms, living room, staff office and study area.

Youth In Need's Transitional Living Program is a group home and scattered-site apartments for homeless teens, ages 16 to 21. The program offers the teens an opportunity to learn independent-living skills, to work to complete their education and to become self-sufficient community members.

Each year, YIN serves more than 9,000 children, teens and families in St. Charles, St. Louis, Lincoln, Warren and Montgomery Counties, providing residential treatment, homeless outreach, early-childhood, educational and counseling programs. ■



HBA Invests \$50,000 in RCGA Economic Development Campaign



Regional Chamber & Growth Association President Dick Fleming accepted a \$50,000 HBA check from 2008 HBA President Tom Hughes of T.R. Hughes as an investment in the RCGA economic development campaign. The HBA is in the third year of a five-year commitment that will total \$250,000. The campaign will create and maintain jobs in the region and fuel economic growth.

The Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) Donates More Than \$53,000 to Local Shelter Programs



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. ■



Big Brothers Big Sisters Receives \$12,000



2008 HBA President **Tom Hughes** of **T.R. Hughes** (left) and 2007 HBA President **Matt Belcher** of **Belcher Homes** (right) presented a \$12,000 donation to **Melissa Bode**, vice president of resource development for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, on behalf of the HBCF. The funds will be used for Big Brothers Big Sisters 2008 BIG "Making It Home" project. The donation will cover all costs associated with the renovation of two houses for youth and families participating in the organization's mentoring program. The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to provide a mentor for every child who wants and needs one.

Habitat for Humanity Accepts a \$10,000 Donation



Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) President **Harold Burkemper** of **First Construction of St. Charles** (left), 2007 HBA President **Matt Belcher** of **Belcher Homes** (second from right) and HBCF key contributor and Habitat for Humanity-St. Louis board member **Jim Brennan** of **McKelvey Homes** (right) presented a \$10,000 donation to **Courtney Pittman**, director of resources for Habitat for Humanity-St. Louis, on behalf of the HBCF. The funds will be used to help complete 25 homes in St. Louis City's Mark Twain neighborhood.

HBCF Donates \$16,600 to Life Skills



Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) President **Harold Burkemper** of **First Construction of St. Charles** (left) presented a \$16,600 donation to **Bob Budenholzer**, board chairman of Life Skills, and **Sandra Haas**, vice president of development and communications for Life Skills, on behalf of the HBCF. The funds will be used for hot water heaters as a part of renovations at three apartment buildings owned and operated by Life Skills. The apartments are the individual home units for 48 of the organization's clients with developmental disabilities. The mission of Life Skills is to assist people with developmental disabilities, such as Down Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and mental retardation, to live and work with dignity in our community.

Youth In Need Receives \$15,000 from HBCF



Home Builders Charitable Foundation (HBCF) President **Harold Burkemper** of **First Construction of St. Charles** (left), 2007 HBA President **Matt Belcher** of **Belcher Homes** (second from right) and 2008 HBA President **Tom Hughes** of **T.R. Hughes** (right) presented a \$15,000 donation to **Jim Braun**, president and chief executive officer of Youth In Need (YIN), on behalf of the HBCF. The funds will be used to make residential improvements to YIN's Transitional Living Program Group Home. The program provides a group home and scattered site apartments where homeless youth (ages 16-21) learn independent living skills, work to complete their education and learn to become productive, self-sufficient members of the community.

Builder Highlights

St. Louis Ranked Fifth Most Stable American Housing Market and Sixth Most Affordable U.S. Real Estate Market by *Forbes.com*

Forbes.com recently placed St. Louis as the fifth most stable housing market and sixth most affordable real estate market in America. For the most stable housing market list, *Forbes.com* teamed with Moody's *Economy.com* to develop three prediction models based on a range of factors that affect how prices move. To make the most affordable city list, *Forbes.com* calculated its rankings by looking at the ratio of median home price to median household salary and tracked the percentage of homes sold in the first quarter of this year that were affordable to the median income-earning household.

HBA Builder Members Bower & Bailey and Fischer & Frichtel Contribute to Missouri's First Fully Accessible Playground

HBA builder members **Bower & Bailey** and **Fischer & Frichtel** saluted the opening of Zachary's Playground in Lake Saint Louis with a contribution of \$10,000 to Unlimited Play, the not-for-profit organization responsible for development of Missouri's first fully accessible children's play area. Bower & Bailey and Fischer & Frichtel are participating builders at Saratoga, a multi-product residential community and the site of Zachary's Playground. The playground is designed to be equally appealing to children with and without disabilities, offering them the opportunity to interact, develop understanding and establish friendships. A wheelchair-accessible water play area is in the works.

HBA Builder Member Pyramid Construction Wins National Award for Historic Preservation

HBA builder member **Pyramid Construction** and another St. Louis developer jointly won second place in the private preservation category of the 2007 Preserve America Presidential Awards. The developers received the award at the White House. The awards are presented to organizations, businesses and government entities involved in "preservation of natural or cultural heritage assets," according to the American Council on Historic Preservation.

Cultural Resource Award Presented to HBA Associate Member SCI Engineering



Karl Ruhmann

The American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) presented HBA associate member **SCI Engineering** and The DESCO Group with its 2007 ACRA Industry Award for work on preservation of the Heet Family Farm in Belleville, Ill. The award to SCI was in recognition for "supporting their client's challenge of moving the historic Heet Family Farm and partnering with the family to ensure the farm's preservation." The project involved moving the farm about 400 yards to a site at the edge of the Heet property. **Karl Ruhmann** and **Steve Dasovich** of SCI Engineering accepted the award for SCI. The National Geographic Channel taped the event to use in an episode of the show "Mega Moves." SCI provided archaeological as well as architectural history services on the project.

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