

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By GHBA President
MIKE DISHBERGER, GMB,
Sandcastle Homes Inc.



GHBA, a Leader in the Community

The GHBA is recognized as the voice of home building in the Houston area. What many people do not know is that the GHBA is involved in many charitable projects that make a difference in people's lives.

Benefit Homes Project

In March, Newmark Homes broke ground on a new Benefit Home in Towne Lake on a lot donated by The Caldwell Companies. Westin Homes has completed a home that is currently for sale on a lot donated

by Land Tejas Development. Both of these homes are being built with special donations of labor and materials from vendors and contractors who belong to GHBA.

This month, David Weekley Homes will break ground on another Benefit Home on a lot donated by The Howard Hughes Corporation in Bridgeland. The lots were donated by our developers, so the bulk of the home is built at little expense. The majority of the profit from the sale of the home is donated to The Alzheimer's Association, Texas Children's Hospital, and HomeAid. Since its inception 31 years ago, GHBA has donated more than \$6 million to charity. Last year we set a record of over \$500,000 donated!

HomeAid Houston

HomeAid Houston has a special place in our hearts at GHBA. The goal is to build transitional housing for the homeless in Houston, and HomeAid has added more than 390 beds for Houston's homeless through many different organizations. Listening to the stories of the current and former residents of the facilities we build or rehab is guaranteed to tug at your heart. I just got back from a ground breaking for a new facility being built for Volunteers of America to house 150 persons. Believe me, when you see the impact of these facilities you will want to open your wallets or volunteer to help these individuals. Besides the large projects that we do, we also do 'HomeAid Care' projects. These projects are small scale remodeling and updating of older facilities. Again, the impact on the lives of

the people being helped is tremendous.

BABA Support Our Troops/ Operation FINALLY HOME

Who can forget BABA Support Our Troops, which builds homes for wounded veterans? This program was so well received that it has gone national. I have been part of the presentation where the soldier's family finds out they are getting a new home built, and it literally brought tears of joy to my eyes.

Adopt a Family Project

Finally, each Christmas we solicit donations of gifts for the less fortunate families. Named after Frank Aranza (the former DOW employee who started the program), member companies each get one or two family's names and buy presents for each member of the family. Without these gifts some would go without during what should be a happy time of the year.

How You Can Help

You might ask, "What can I do?" Benefit Homes and HomeAid are always looking for team leaders, donations of product and services, and of course your time. Each year HomeAid has a playhouse built by one our builders or remodelers. The playhouse is raffled off, and the proceeds benefit the charity. We always need help selling these raffle tickets at the Astros games. Why not volunteer this summer? When November comes around, adopt a family and spread holiday cheer. Sandcastle Homes has done this for years and we all feel good about helping out.

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BREAKING GROUND ON RESTORATION HILL: NICOLE'S STORY

PROJECT GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY

- Bank of America
- Greater Houston Builders Association
- Benefit Homes Project
- Houston Endowment
- Manners-Cocle Foundation
- Edward and Brenda Martin Foundation
- Meadows Foundation
- Tizen Home Corporation
- Weyerhaeuser Foundation

VENDORS AND SUPPLIERS

- #1 Cleaning Specialist
- Advanced Concrete Surfaces
- Allied Custom Gypsum
- Armstrong World Industries, Inc.
- Avastek
- BMC Building Materials
- BPC, Inc.
- Brivio Media
- Builders Post-Tension
- CBS Outdoor
- Camden Builders, Inc.
- Centerpoint Energy
- Cainmaoh Corporation
- Contract Builders Supply
- Da-Tile
- Dixie Carpet Installation, Inc.
- Elen Lighting
- Greenman
- Hardman Signs
- The Houston Chronicle
- Huber Woods
- Hudson Building Systems
- J&L Distributors
- Jordan & Shiao Engineers, Inc.
- KV Tile
- Mainland Marble
- Maintenance Builders Supply, Ltd.
- Mark Brothers Company, Inc.
- Masa Studio, Architects
- The Murillo Company
- Nationwide Gutter
- Nationwide Masonry
- Nystrom Building Products
- Quis Fire Protection
- On-Target Marketing and Advertising
- Power Plumbing, Inc.
- Readers Wholesale Distributors, Ltd.
- SCA Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- Sherwin-Williams Paint Company
- Smart Companies, Inc.
- Super Anchor
- Tamlyn and Sons
- The Teal System Boiler Management Ltd.
- Trasway
- Whipool
- The Writer's Block

At the recent ground breaking of Restoration Hill, a HomeAid project with partners Camden Builders and Volunteers of America, guests were honored to hear a testimonial by one of the graduates of VOA.

"When we hear the story of a woman and her children going from homelessness to hope, it reminds us of why we do what we do through HomeAid," said Parke Patterson, HomeAid president. Here is Nicole's story...

"My chance to live and I took it"

Hello, my name is Nicole, and I am a recovering alcoholic and addict. My sobriety date is 08/28/08 and for that I am truly grateful. It is important for me to know that about myself—that I'm an alcoholic and addict—because until I was able to see myself in the problem I couldn't see myself in the solution. This shift in perception was the first of many tools laid at my feet by the program. When I say, "laid at my feet" I mean just that—it was up to me to pick them up. Before I got to the program, my only answer to life's situations was to drink and use. Today I believe a person's bottom is when they quit digging, and by the time I quit digging, I had lost my children, my family, and myself. I lost my dignity, integrity, opportunities, and freedom. I am a six time convicted felon and felt that I would never become a valued member of society, be able to drive a car, rent an apt, get a job, be a mom or a friend. This disease took me to a demoralizing and, quite frankly, tragic way of life. All I had left was the desperation of the dying...so I thought.

I was arrested again in August of 2008 and facing 25 years to life due to my priors. I must be totally honest here. I asked for help at that time partly because I felt I needed it, but mostly because those consequences were far too great. I was interviewed, determined an addict and sworn in as a STAR Drug Court client, sentenced to four years deferred probation and intense recovery program. I was released to VOA in October 2008. Upon arriving, there were no doors slamming behind me, no bars

things exit your life, new things enter, and was directed to an anonymous program. As a result, today I am a valued member of society. I am into my third year at the same job. My children came back to live with me full time. I was able to buy a car and furnish my home, get bills and maintain them. I have become a participant in the Thrive Initiative and have saved \$6,000 toward the purchase of my first home. I have served for a one year term on the board of directors for a transitional living facility for women. I graduated from STAR Drug Court December 2009 and I successfully discharged my four year probation two years early. I am engaged to be married and have a wonderful support group. I presently sponsor five women in the Alcoholics Anonymous program, two of whom are still in treatment; the other three are getting their one year chips

and sponsoring women themselves. What a life! It is so important to my long term sobriety that I stay actively involved with the program by attending meetings, doing service work and staying a part of the "we" and not one of the few! I am a part of something bigger than me which allows for limitless expansion.

But more than all of that, thanks to God, to the people in the business of helping women like me and the program, I have the chance and the tools to live a happy, joyous and free life. I give my thanks and sincere gratitude to the Spiritual Program of Action and people like you, for without you, my desperation meant death, but because of you my desperation turned out to be a gift.

Sincerely, Nicole C. Lovell

Our mission: To build dignified housing where homeless families & individuals can rebuild their lives.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 6 Ceremonial Groundbreaking for VOA/Camden Project "Restoration Hill"	APR 26 5th Annual HomeAid Charity Golf Tournament at Tour 18	APR 30 Project Playhouse at Sienna Plantation's Sip 'n Stroll	MAY 11 Commemorative Plaque Installation at Santa Maria Hostel's House of Hope
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Take a minute. Go to www.homeaidhouston.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Stay informed and connected at association meetings and events.

May

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Monday, May 2
4 p.m. - SMC Board Meeting
6 p.m. - SMC Battle of the Builders & Top Producer Awards, at BSH Showroom, 10600 W Sam Houston Pkwy N 77064

Tuesday, May 3
9 a.m. - MultiFamily Council Meeting
11:30 a.m. - BABA Mid-Year Forecast Luncheon, featuring David Jarvis of Metrostudy, Friendswood Friends Church, 502 S Friendswood Dr.

Wednesday, May 4
1:30 p.m. - Community Developers Council

Thursday, May 5
9 a.m. - Education Committee
11:30 a.m. - Associate Council Luncheon featuring "Builder Purchasing Manager Panel"
2:30 p.m. - Finance/Executive Committee
4 p.m. - GHBA Board Meeting

Monday, May 9
Houston's Best Awards, Call for Entries

Thursday, May 12
10 a.m. - Green Building Committee
10 a.m. - New Home & Remodeling Show Dress Rehearsal

Monday, May 16
2:30 p.m. - CEO Speed Selling Event

Tuesday, May 17
11:30 a.m. - Custom Builders Council Lunch, at the HESS Club, 5430 Westheimer 77056
6 p.m. - Remodelers Council Vendor Showcase, at St. Arnold's Brewing Co., 2000 Lyons Ave. 77020

Thursday, May 19
3 p.m. - New Member Orientation and Remodelers Council Networking Event, at BMC Builder Material's New North Houston Lumber Yard, 7355 West Rd. 77086

Tuesday, May 24
5:30 p.m. - Bay Area Speed Selling

Wednesday, May 25
11:30 a.m. - Montgomery County Luncheon, at the Landry's in The Woodlands
3:30 p.m. - Government Affairs Committee

EDUCATION

Monday, May 9
9 a.m. - Green Built Gulf Coast (GBGC) Builder Education Course, for green builders and verifiers only

Tuesday, May 10
1p.m. - BAR/PREP Assessments

Wednesday, May 11
9 a.m. - Scheduling

Wednesday, May 17
9 a.m. - Profitable Business through Quality Practices

Thursday, May 18
8 a.m. - Lead Renovation, Repair & Painting Certification Program

Friday, May 19
8:30 a.m. - HVAC Quality Installation & Design Workshop

Tuesday, May 24
9 a.m. - Building Codes & Standards

Wednesday, June 15

8 a.m. to Noon - Custom Builder Contract Seminar - Long Session
1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - Custom Builder Contract Seminar - Short Session

Monday, June 20

11:30 a.m. - Mid-Year Forecast Luncheon, at the new Westin Hotel Memorial City, at Gessner and I-10

Tuesday, June 21

11:30 a.m. - Custom Builders Council Lunch, at the HESS Club, 5430 Westheimer 77056
11:30 a.m. - SMC Board Meeting at GHBA

Wednesday, June 22

11:30 a.m. - Montgomery County Luncheon, at the Landry's in The Woodlands
3:30 p.m. - Government Affairs Committee

Thursday, June 23

8 a.m. to Noon - Remodelers Contract Seminar - Long Session

EDUCATION

Tuesday, June 7

10 a.m. - OSHA 10-Hour Safety & Health Certification Course

Wednesday, June 8

9 a.m. - Customer Service

Thursday, June 9

9 a.m. - Building Technology: Structures and Exterior Finishes

Tuesday, June 14

10 a.m. - OSHA 10-Hour Safety & Health Certification Course
1 p.m. - BAR/PREP Assessments

Thursday, June 16

9 a.m. - Financial Management

Tuesday - Wednesday, June 21-22

9 a.m. - Advanced Green Building: Building Science

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 15

Houston's Best Awards, Entries Due (Late deadline is July 22.)

Saturday, September 24

Houston's Best Awards, at Hotel InterContinental Houston

Thursday, November 17

Product Expo, Sam Houston Race Park

*Dates subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings held at the GHBA offices, located at 9511 West Sam Houston Parkway North, Houston, Texas 77064. Register online at www.ghba.org/register or call 281.970.8970.

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