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Houston Parkway N, Houston, TX 77064

[www.HomeAidHouston.org](http://www.HomeAidHouston.org)

# Laying the Groundwork

## HomeAid Board Approves Two Building Projects for Homeless

The HomeAid Houston board meeting on October 10 was a milestone for HAH. Since the inception of the Gulf Coast Rebuilding Fund, founded by a \$3 million grant provided by Ameriquest Mortgage, HomeAid chapters in Houston, Dallas and Atlanta have been researching agencies with strong financial and historical presence and who own land available for building to determine their viability as a HomeAid project.

“We have talked to numerous homeless agencies in Houston, surveyed their history and their mission, reviewed their financials and visited their sites,” reported Bette Moser Wickline, HAH executive director. “All our work culminated the week prior to the October board meeting, when board members and builders met to see onsite presentations by Mission of Yahweh and Wellsprings, Inc.”

All the groundwork paid off. At the October meeting, HAH board members approved the building of an 18-bed dormitory for the Mission of Yahweh and the construction of six 8-bed homes for the Village of Wellsprings.

The Mission of Yahweh ([www.missionofyahweh.org](http://www.missionofyahweh.org)) has a 44-year history of serving homeless women and children. The dormitory will be a needed addition to their campus, which includes a single woman’s dorm, family dorm, learning center, commercial kitchen, chapel, resale store and administration building.

Wellsprings, Inc. ([www.wellspringsinc.com](http://www.wellspringsinc.com)) owns a three acre parcel where there are currently two houses of four double occupancy bedrooms/baths with common

living and dining facilities. The addition of six more houses of similar design will enable Wellsprings to expand on a 17-year tradition of providing transitional housing and services to homeless women in Houston.

Brian Binash, president of HomeAid Houston, confirmed, “We are excited about the prospect of working with these two deserving agencies. A number of builders have shown interest in working with us and the next step is to secure Builder Captains for each project.”

Builder Captain companies will donate construction management services and will work with HAH to secure donations of labor and materials from their vendors.

“Based on past generosity of our suppliers, we are hoping for 60 to 70 percent of the cost of the project to be donated,” stated Shelter Selection Committee Chairperson Gene Walton of Bank of America. “The remainder of the cost of the project would typically be paid for by the agency, but we are anticipating most of it will now be funded through the Gulf Coast Rebuilding Fund.”

Shelters that are built by HomeAid Houston are owned by the homeless agency and all property management and client services are handled by that agency. The Gulf Coast Rebuilding Fund requires the new beds be used to house Katrina evacuees for 18 to 24 months. The shelter then becomes a permanent asset for the homeless agency.

For more information on HomeAid Houston, visit [www.homeaidhouston.org](http://www.homeaidhouston.org).