



HomeAid Houston Donors Build Foundation for Katrina Relief

While a Category Four hurricane is an unusual cause of homelessness in our region, Hurricane Katrina joins the more common reasons – domestic abuse, mental illness, alcohol and drug abuse, and illness or injury, resulting in loss of a job – as the leading cause of homelessness in Houston.

Prior to Katrina, 12,000 to 14,000 were homeless in any given night in Houston. Women, children and youths make up 55 percent of the homeless population; 50 percent of the men who are homeless are veterans. Post Katrina, some estimates show our homeless population has swelled to more than 100,000!

HomeAid Houston, a charity sponsored by GHBA and affiliated with HomeAid America, is part of a network of chapters that make up the largest provider of transitional shelter for the temporarily homeless in the nation.

On September 9, 2005, HomeAid America announced the establishment of the “Gulf Coast Rebuilding Fund” and the investment of \$3 million by Ameriquest Mortgage to jumpstart the building process.

Prior to the announcement, HomeAid Houston and GHBA were mobilizing quickly. “We are working with city and county officials, Realtors and our members to identify land for building or existing multifamily units available for immediate donation or purchase, so that we can mobilize our building and remodeling teams,” explained Kathryn “Toy” Wood, executive vice president and CEO of GHBA. “In addition, we are working with the Coalition for the Homeless in Houston and Harris County to identify agencies who have the funding and resources

to manage these properties and their residents long term.”

Brian Binash, president of HomeAid Houston, stated, “We have polled our membership and the response has been overwhelming. Our members stand ready to do all they can to create shelter for our newest Houston citizens and to provide a long-term asset for the existing Houston homeless population.”

“Because of the foundational support we received from our members, and especially from the David Weekley Family Foundation and The Manners/Coole Foundation, HomeAid Houston is in a position to make an impact on the Katrina evacuees in the short term and our own homeless population in the long term,” Binash continued.

All donors were honored at GHBA’s September 15 Political Luncheon and General Meeting, and awards were presented to the David Weekley Family Foundation and the Manners/Coole Foundation.

“The awards were in the design of a door that opened and read: “Thank You for Opening the Door to a New Life for the Homeless of Houston,”” stated HomeAid Executive Director Bette Moser Wickline. “These awards represented perfectly our gratitude towards these two foundations and all our generous donors who have done so much to provide us with the means to deliver hope and homes to our homeless population.”

For more information on HomeAid Houston and the Gulf Coast Rebuilding Fund, or to donate materials, labor or money, please visit HomeAid Houston online at www.homeaid-houston.org.



HomeAid Houston President Brian Binash (left) and GHBA President Kevin Holland (right) thank David Weekley of the Weekley Family Foundation (center) for his generous contribution to HomeAid Houston’s mission of providing hope and homes to Houston’s temporarily homeless. Not pictured: Mike Manners of the Manners/Coole Foundation was also honored at GHBA’s General Meeting in September.

HOMEAID HOUSTON DONORS

Diamond Level – \$25,000 +
David Weekley Family Foundation
The Manners/Coole Foundation

Platinum Level – \$10,000 +
Tilson Home Corporation

Gold Level – \$5,000 +

Eddie and Brenda Martin Foundation

Silver Level – \$2,500 +

Brian and Irene Binash Foundation

Bronze Level – \$1,000 +

Darling Homes

Mike & Leslie Karm, Larus Builders Inc

Kathleen Stadler, Suncoast Post-Tension

Pewter Level – \$250+

Bruce Barclay, Texas State Bank

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Tom Walker, Gateway Homes, Ltd

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Kurt Watzek, Beazer Homes

Bette Wickline, HomeAid Houston

Toy Wood, GHBA

Friends of HomeAid

Frank Aranza, Jr, Dow Chemical

Dan Bawden, Legal Eagle Contractors Co

HomeAid Houston is a 501(c)3

Tax ID# 33-0673009

All donations to HomeAid Houston are tax deductible.

Checks may be made out to HomeAid Houston and

sent to: HomeAid Houston, c/o GHBA, 9511 W Sam

Houston Parkway N, Houston, TX 77064

www.HomeAidHouston.org