

## ***HOMEAID HOUSTON PARTNERS WITH GHBA'S SMC FOR HOMELESS SHELTERS***

May 3, 2009 – HomeAid Houston (HAH), the charitable arm of the Greater Houston Builders Association (GHBA) and the GHBA's Sales & Marketing Council (SMC), have formed a team to recruit furniture donations for 10,000 sq. ft. of space that HomeAid projects will provide in 2009. HomeAid builds transitional shelters for temporarily homeless men, women and children. Recruiting furniture donations for these shelters has been named Adopt-A-Room.

“We approached Terry Dawson, chairman of the SMC to work with us on Adopt-A Room because the Council expressed interested in participating on a HomeAid project,” said Chris Hawkins, president of the HAH board of directors. “SMC maintains a strong connection with area builders who are members of the GHBA. That has proven to be a perfect fit for outfitting these facilities.”

The SMC is a forum for new home industry professionals to meet, network and exchange ideas. The Council is committed to the education, motivation and growth of its (# coming from Lisa P) membership. They are professionals in the marketing, merchandising, and sales of new homes. The SMC is responsible for the yearly PARADE of HOMES and PRISM awards, two events that help promote builders and developers and reward them for their stellar performance in the industry.

Between two Gracewood projects, one a new construction facility with MHI as the Builder Captain and the second, a green remodeling project, headed by Brothers Strong, over 10,000 sq. ft. will need furnishings. Items needed include all appliances, living area furniture and décor, bedroom furniture for adults and children and kitchen items. A committee comprised of team members from Gracewood and HomeAid Houston, along with board members from SMC's Trish Brennan Josephs of Spark, Laurie Wilson of New Home Magazine and Kim McDaniel of Wilshire Homes has worked with local builders to obtain donations from various model homes.

Donations to date include: townhome model furniture from MHI; a washer and dryer from Keystone Classic Homes; kitchen and bedroom furniture as well as accessories from Centex Homes, model home furniture, artwork and office desks from Trendmaker Homes, three storage units of model home furniture from David Weekley Homes, appliances from Darling Homes; and a number of household items from Lennar Homes.

“These donations have been such a blessing for us at Gracewood,” said Debbie Ripstein, executive director. “It has been a huge commitment and a lot of work by the SMC Adopt-A-Room committee to come up with so many wonderful items for our new shelters. The whole team at Gracewood thanks these generous builders for donations that will ensure our clients and their children truly have a warm, welcoming place to live.”

Gracewood, a Texas charity of Children at Heart Ministries, provides housing for mothers and their children who need a safe haven from crisis situations. Gracewood also works with these mothers to obtain educations, jobs, counseling and a helping hand up.

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