

MHI AND HOMEAID NEAR COMPLETION OF GRACEWOOD HOMELESS FACILITY

June 16, 2009 - Dozens of GHBA vendors and labor crews have been buzzing around the 6,828 sq. ft., five-family residential facility that is under construction for Gracewood, a residential ministry for single mothers and their children. MHI, the project's builder captain is donating the construction management of the 14-bed facility that will provide transitional housing for families who are at risk for homelessness due to a crisis situation. MHI is partnering with HomeAid Houston, a Greater Houston Builders Association charity and the local arm of HomeAid National. HomeAid is assisting MHI in recruiting GHBA member vendors to donate materials, labor and services to complete the new facility located in northwest Houston.

VENDOR DONORS

The following companies and their donations reflect the level of generosity that exists within the GHBA membership. Allied Concrete donated the foundation material and Suncoast Post Tension donated the rebar. Pro Build donated the form, frame and cornice material; Gulf & Basco donated the windows and a portion of the cabinets; West End Lumber and ABC Supply donated the roofing material; On-Duty Systems supplied the TV, phones and security wiring; Big Tex donated the A/C materials and Stock Building Supply contributed the interior trim, baseboards, sills and interior doors.

Other contributors included Weisenbaker's donation of tile and kitchen countertops, Royal Baths the marble bathroom countertops, and Mark Corbaugh, the wind storm compliance material.

Companies also donated their crews to provide the extensive labor required to build a structure of this size and scope. Labor was donated by Integrity Concrete for foundation work; Juan Medina, framing; Roberto Diaz, roof labor; Marek Brothers, sheetrock labor as well as a portion of the material; Ross Masonary, brick work; Rafeal Martinez, clean-up and detail finish-out; Swartz Electric donated the electrical installation labor and half of the material for wiring and boxes; Big Tex donated A/C labor; D& E donated plumbing labor; Sienna Paint donated painters; Guerrero donated trim services, and Gabino Rivera contributed cornice and siding labor.

"Most of the donated materials, labor and services that have been essential to completing this HomeAid project have come from our own vendor base," said

James Miller, president of MHI. “The MHI construction team and our subcontractors and vendors have always maintained a mutual respect for one another. The strength of this relationship is a key factor in the team-building we have experienced since the HomeAid ground breaking. It will be an exciting day when we hand the keys over to the Gracewood agency so they can continue their important work with Houston’s homeless families.”

In 2006 Gracewood received over 50 calls for every opening that became available. MHI, HomeAid and over 40 companies are helping to answer the need for a safe, healthy environment for those in crisis.

“We have been truly touched by the generosity of the many companies and individuals associated with MHI,” said Debbie Rippstein, executive director of Gracewood. “Each time I visit the project site, even on Sundays, there are crews working. They have taken this project to heart and it is obvious they believe in what they are doing for our deserving mother’s and their children. We will never be able to thank MHI, their subcontractors and HomeAid enough for this wonderful gift.”

HomeAid Houston works with the GHBA and the builders to recruit generous Association members to donate materials, labor and services for the construction of transitional housing for the homeless of Houston. The effort to provide a safe place for homeless men, women and children in the Houston area, is ongoing. Since 2003, HomeAid Houston, with the help of area builders, vendors and individuals, has added 336 beds for those less fortunate.

Gracewood is one of four Children At Heart Ministries that serve children and families in crisis. The original facility is located in south Houston.

For more information on HomeAid Houston, visit www.homeaidhouston.org or call the GHBA at 281-970-8970.