

# Contributing to Community

Homebuilders—Giving Back To The Community With Compassion And Caring

## Winchester Homes Gets Down and Dirty for a Good Cause



Winchester Homes did its part to help clean up the Potomac River at the *21st Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup* sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation in April. More than 60 employees and their families turned out for the event at sites in both Maryland and Virginia. Overall they filled 158 bags of trash, along with collecting 1,200 plastic bags, four grocery carts, a bike, two children's swimming pools, three tires, and a stroller.

The day was a great success! According to the Alice Ferguson Foundation there were more than 11,000 volunteers in 400 sites throughout DC, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia who collected 283 TONS of trash. ✨

## Ballard Spahr Offers Free Estate Planning at Wills For Heroes Clinic

At the first ever *Wills For Heroes* event in Maryland this past March, volunteer lawyers from **Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP** prepared wills, medical directives and powers of attorneys at no charge for over two dozen first responders from the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad who volunteer their time and risk their lives for the benefit and welfare of our community.

Wills For Heroes is a nonprofit organization, created in response to the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Since many first responders do not have estate plans, volunteer lawyers, through the program, provide them with free basic legal estate planning services including wills and other basic estate-planning documents. Since its creation, volunteer attorneys have readied more than 10,000 documents for first responders nationwide, 350 of those prepared by Ballard attorneys. ✨



## MNCBIA Supports Future Builders



MNCBIA continued its tradition of supporting students in the regional SkillsUSA competition, held this year at the Calvert Career Center in Prince Frederick, MD, by donating money, materials and their time as judges.

MNCBIA members **Jim Bacot** of Brooks Run Builders, Inc. volunteered his time as a judge and Liberty Home Builder's **Guy Curley** had the honor of presenting the awards. Students received top honors in the Carpentry, Masonry, Cabinetmaking and Teamworks competitions and took home prizes graciously donated by Guy and Jim. "In a time of economic distress for our industry, Jim and I were especially pleased with the overwhelming donation of prizes and materials needed for the competition," commented Curley. ✨

# COMMUNITY BUILDERS

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## Home Builders Care Foundation Honored With Distinguished Partner Award

The Home Builders Care Foundation (HBCF), the charitable affiliate of the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association, was honored with the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless' (MCCH) Distinguished Partner Award at the March 5th *Celebrating Partnerships* Gala event. This award is given to an individual or organization that has provided extraordinary support in the effort to end homelessness in Montgomery County. HBCF was honored in recognition of its long-standing dedication and contributions. In a decade of partnership in Montgomery County, HBCF donated over \$1,000,000 in goods and services to improve MCCH's ability to serve people experiencing homelessness.

MCCH's partnership with HBCF began in the mid-1990s when HBCF, then called the Operation Tom Sawyer Foundation, donated new flooring in Adrienne's Safe Haven. In 1999, when HBCF learned that scores of homeless men were sleeping on floor mats in three trailers, they offered to help build a 100-bed state-of-the-art facility. With HBCF's involvement, \$1 million dollars in construction costs were cut in half. In 2007, HBCF helped renovate Dale Drive Apartments, which serves as permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals. By donating over \$200,000 of goods and services, their dedicated effort was

integral to the creation of these permanent homes. During the past year, HBCF donated \$300,000 in goods and services to build a new 3,780 sq. ft. wing at the Men's Emergency Shelter, where demand for shelter and outreach services has grown beyond the facility's original capacity. Under the leadership of Builder Captain **Winchester Homes**, the addition was completed and put to use in February. Today, the improved space provides 35 more beds and allows MCCH to provide a range of supportive onsite services to help residents recover and rebuild their lives. An official grand opening and ribbon cutting is scheduled for early June 2009.

HBCF President **Ted Smart** with Maryland Development Co. LLC in Rockville, accepted the award. "Projects like the expanded Men's Shelter and the renewed Dale Drive Apartments demonstrate what great things can occur when non-profit organizations and key county officials and agencies work together to achieve goals."

Sharan London, MCCH Executive Director commented, "HBCF's contributions of time, services, personnel and funds have made these vital projects a reality. The unflagging commitment of HBCF and its building industry members has dramatically changed the lives of people experiencing homelessness, and MCCH is proud to have them as our partner." ✨



At the March *Celebrating Partnerships* Gala, Home Builders Care Foundation board members and other home building industry leaders were treated to an extraordinary surprise at the announcement that the Montgomery County's Men's Emergency Shelter was being renamed the **Home Builders Care Assessment Center**. The honor was presented in recognition of the home building industry's contributions and dedication to improving shelter for the homeless and other vulnerable populations in Montgomery County. Pictured (L to R) with the new sign are Mary Fertig, Mike Conley, Patti Kane, Mike Goldstein, Rich MacDonough, HBCF President Ted Smart, Jack Orrick, Diane Swenson, Cecilia Hodges, MNCBIA President Tom Farasy, Peggy Molloy, Miles Haber, underwriting gala sponsor and MNCBIA Past-President Dick Pettit, along with MCCH Board Member Chuck Covell.

# Creating Homes

Homebuilders—Responsive, Responsible And Respected

## A Vulnerable Family's Home Is Repaired by Ryan Homes

The application for assistance from an elderly woman in Prince George's County noted that the flooring tiles in her kitchen and bathroom needed replacement, as well as some painting needed to be done in the living room. Her husband had just had a stroke and she and her family members had been unable to keep up with the maintenance of the home. It sounded like a one-day *Christmas in April* Project. HBCF contacted the homeowner and coordinated a site visit.

When Peter Robertson, General Manager for Ryan Home's Suburban Maryland Division inspected the home, however, he found it in a state of disrepair. In order to make the home habitable, both he and HBCF staff knew much more substantial work had to be done.

The upstairs bathroom was decrepit. The home's only shower unit was unusable and a drain pipes were missing from the sink. A bucket was used for washing-up. The bathroom floor was sloped down to one side, indicating that the sub floor would need to be re-built. Water damage was visible on all levels. The downstairs bath and kitchen were not much better with missing flooring, non-working appliances and poor plumbing.

The one-day project turned into a week-long project at the end of April. Led by Ryan's Project Manager Ben Gottlieb, the basic necessities of the house were restored and it is now a dry, safe, and functional family home. The roof was repaired and the family received not one, but two complete new bathrooms and a rebuilt kitchen that included flooring, countertops, a sink, disposal and cook top. Needless to say, the lady of the house was overwhelmed with gratitude.

*"With new home construction, the focus is production and service," commented Ben Gottlieb. "With this project, it was refreshing to step back and help someone who can't afford the luxury of a new home, let alone the cost of repairs, and do good work for someone who really needs the help."*



Ben Gottlieb (right) poses with a few Ryan Homes' trade partners.

Alongside Ryan Homes, a number of trades contributed to the project including Robert Tull Plumbing, CTI, Florez Home Improvement, Krehling Industries, and Bath Fitters.

2009 marks the eighth straight year that the Home Builders Care Foundation has fulfilled its commitment to support all *Rebuilding Together* and *Christmas In April* programs throughout all six MNCBIA jurisdictions. This year, with a number of professional trades short-staffed and unable to lend significant help, HBCF is very grateful to the Ryan Homes team and all of the kind work contributed to this worthy project. ⚙

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# Building Neighborhoods

Homebuilders—Creating Neighborhoods With Purpose and Vision

## GE Provides Boost to HomeAid DC's First Project

One of the first new permanent supportive housing sites for Washington, DC's chronically homeless population, the Dunbar Apartments, is in the final phases of construction. Soon, the building's new tenants—women with mental illness who have lived on the streets and in emergency shelters—will move into their own apartments and get the supportive services they need to live more stable lives.

The Dunbar was developed by Open Arms Housing (OAH) an organization founded in 1997 by social workers who saw an unserved need among chronically homeless mentally ill women.

With total development costs for the once-abandoned building hovering around \$2.7 million, an extensive team of supporters was needed to see the project to completion. These supporters included the Home Builders Care Foundation's HomeAid Washington DC (HADC) chapter, District of Columbia government agencies, several private foundations, and a number of community development focused organizations.

In 2008, HADC pledged its assistance to the Dunbar by agreeing to supply all appliances to the project. A



Workers install new kitchen cabinetry.

HomeAid Washington DC was awarded grant funds as part of the William S. Abell Foundation's Strategic Initiative to End Homelessness. The fund aims to support programs that create permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless and other strategic programs aimed at ending and preventing homelessness in our community. The Dunbar Apartments project has benefited from this Initiative.

sign of the times, initial outreach efforts to secure in-kind donations were not entirely fruitful. But in the spring of 2009, the Champion of HADC's very first project arrived when GE Consumer & Industrial supplied and delivered over 90 of its products to the housing project's job site at a tremendous discount. With a total retail value of specified



(Above) OAH Project Manager Marth Davis gives a tour.

items listed at nearly \$40,000, the final cost to HADC was less than half of retail.

*"GE really came through for our HomeAid chapter and we are absolutely thrilled by their generosity," commented Patti Kane, the program manager for both Home Builders Care and HADC. "We are so thankful for their kindness and contribution to this milestone project in the District."*

Located in DC's 5th Ward at 57 O Street N.W., the Dunbar is an

existing two-story plus basement apartment building originally built around 1920. Containing a total of 19 units, it will provide housing for 16 mentally-ill chronically homeless women along with units for three staff and volunteers who will monitor residents around the clock. A formal grand opening is anticipated this summer. ⚙