

# Contributing to Community

Homebuilders—Giving Back To The Community With Compassion And Caring

## MNCBIA Supports Students in Building Competition

Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association members helped sponsor students who competed in the Carpentry, Masonry, Cabinetmaking and Teamworks categories in the regional SkillsUSA competition held in February at the Calvert Career Center in Prince Frederick, MD. Contributing member companies included **84 Lumber** and **Paragon Properties**, who donated both materials and awards for this year's competition. Acting as a judge again this year was **Jim Bacot** of Brooks Run Builders.

A dozen talented students in trade programs from St. Mary's, Charles and Calvert



counties participated in this regional SkillsUSA event. Winning students will participate in State competitions, and those winners will represent Maryland in the 46th annual national SkillsUSA contest in Kansas City, MO, this June.

SkillsUSA is a national organization providing training programs to more than 300,000 high school and college students in technical, skilled and service occupations. Its' programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. ✪

## Help the Homeless Walkathon

A team of walkers for the **Home Builders Care Foundation** (HBCF) participated in the 2009 Help the Homeless Walkathon this past November. The annual *Help the Homeless Walkathon*, hosted by Fannie Mae, raises awareness and critical funds for homeless programs in the Washington, DC, area— including the Home Builders Care Foundation— which has been a selected beneficiary of the Help the Homeless Program for the past nine years.

HBCF is expected to raise more than \$25,000 via the 2009 event thanks to MNCBIA members who contributed to our annual fall fund drive, as well as thanks to our team of walkers and the pledges they obtained. The funds, distributed in February 2010, will be used to fund charitable construction projects throughout 2010. ✪



# COMMUNITY BUILDERS

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## 2009 Community Service Award Winners Honored

In January, the **Home Builders Care Foundation** (HBCF) announced its winners of the *2009 Community Service Awards*. The awards are presented annually to individuals or companies affiliated with the local home building industry in recognition of significant contributions to the community through unselfish efforts and dedication in support of projects that help the poor and disadvantaged in our communities.

Awards were presented in the following categories: The *Community Builder Award*—presented in recognition of a builder or associate member who helps raise awareness of the industry's spirit of giving; The *Directors Award*—presented in recognition of leadership and advocacy for the mission and purpose of Home Builders Care; and the *Tom Sawyer Award*—presented in recognition of significant in-kind donations to HBCF's shelter-related projects.

**GE Appliances** was the first to be honored with a *Community Builder Award* and recognized for its support of



Jason Kilmore, Area Manager for Ruppert Nurseries, is congratulated by HBCF President, Ted Smart.

HomeAid Washington DC's first housing project at the Dunbar Apartments in NW Washington DC. Once vacant and abandoned, this renovated two-story building, owned and operated by Open Arms Housing, is now home to 16 mentally-ill and once chronically homeless women. In the spring of 2009, GE Consumer & Industrial supplied and delivered more than 90 of its kitchen appliance products to the Dunbar at a hefty discount. With a total retail value of just under \$40,000, the total cost savings to HomeAid Washington DC was about 60 percent for a total in-kind donation of \$22,000. GE's **Dana Heideman** attended the grand opening of the Dunbar and also gave of his time to help educate Open Arms staff on their new equipment.

The second *Community Builder Award* was presented to **Ruppert Nurseries**. For the past four years, Ruppert has been a key sponsor of the annual *Life is Good® Pumpkin Festival* in Clarksburg Town Center and has donated its resources and expertise. For the past three years, the Festival benefited HBCF's own HomeAid Washington, DC, chapter and its ongoing efforts to help families in need.



Dana Heidman, with HBCF President, Ted Smart and HBCF Manager Patti Kane, accepts the award for GE Appliances.

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# Creating Homes

Homebuilders—Responsive, Responsible And Respected

This past June, Ruppert also stepped up to help on the HomeAid DC project at the Dunbar Apartments. With only a few weeks to go before the project's grand opening, Ruppert transformed the bare and neglected inner city yard space into a beautiful urban garden, donating delivery, labor, soil, fertilizer and mulch for the installation—an in-kind donation valued near \$7,000.

The *Directors Award*, was presented to **The William S. Abell Foundation**, who in 2009 provided an \$88,000 grant to launch the HomeAid Washington DC chapter. The Foundation was established in 1985 by William S. Abell and Patricia O'C. Abell to support qualified organizations in providing aid to people in need in the District of Columbia and nearby Maryland counties. The Abell Foundation's grant to HomeAid Washington DC was earmarked specifically for permanent supportive housing projects as part of the foundation's Strategic Initiative to End Homelessness. With this support Home Builders Care/HomeAid has been able to lend its expertise and resources to help create a total of 46 new units of permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless persons with special needs in the District.

Finally, the *Tom Sawyer Award* was presented to **Ron Keefer** (not pictured) in recognition of his nearly year-long, daily hands-on leadership and commitment to the addition project at the Home Builders Care Assessment Center, formerly called the Men's Emergency Shelter in Rockville. The original 5,800 sq. ft. shelter was built by HBCF in 2000 to accommodate 100 beds. Since then, demand for shelter has dramatically increased. The new 3,700 sq. ft. addition provides space for 35 more beds and a range of new onsite services. Throughout construction, Mr. Keefer served as the project manager for Builder Captain **Winchester Homes**. Ron's kindness, consideration and



William S. Abell Foundation Executive Director, Carol Doolan proudly accepts the Directors Award from HBCF President, Ted Smart.

flexibility in working along side and with shelter staff and residents was admirable. As the project moved beyond final completion and Ron, unfortunately, separated from Winchester Homes, he continued to stay involved throughout the warranty period. We are honored by his ongoing commitment to serve.

The cooperation, dedication and spirit of our Community Service Award Winners are excellent examples of why the Home Builders Care program succeeds in helping end homelessness by improving the lives of poor and homeless individuals and families in our communities. ✨

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# Building Neighborhoods

Homebuilders—Creating Neighborhoods With Purpose and Vision



## Building Industry Assists Aunt Hattie's Place

The **Home Builders Care Foundation (HBCF)**, recently helped with a construction project to build a new supportive foster home for boys in Sandy Spring, MD. In mid-February, HBCF made a contribution of \$21,000 to help Aunt Hattie's Place (AHP) offset its cost of drywall on its new foster home, currently under construction.

The contribution was made possible thanks to funds raised in the fall by Newland Communities at the *Life is good®*

*Pumpkin Festivals* in the Clarksburg Town Center to help kids in need. **Bob Ditthardt**, project manager at Clarksburg Town Center and a new HBCF board member, was on hand to make the contribution to AHP founder Dr. Hattie Washington.

Aunt Hattie's Place is a Baltimore-based non-profit dedicated to providing long-term homes for abused, abandoned, and neglected children in foster care. AHP has two existing homes in the Baltimore area and is in the process of expanding into Montgomery County with its' third home. The new 12,000 sq. ft. home would provide long-term transitional housing for up to 12 boys ages 12-19.

In addition to HBCF and Newland, other MNCBIA member companies have also lent significant in-kind assistance to the Aunt Hattie project. These industry members include the law firm of **Linowes & Blocher LLP**, the engineering firm of **Loiederman Soltesz Associates, Inc.** and **Annandale Millwork/Allied Systems**. The project also received funding from the State of Maryland and Montgomery County. ✨

## Holiday Toy Drive Benefits Homeless and at-risk Children

This past December, the **Home Builders Care Foundation (HBCF)** held its annual Holiday Toy Collection to benefit homeless and at-risk children in our communities. The drive was held at MNCBIA's annual President's Luncheon at the Congressional Country Club. At the event, 150 generous MNCBIA members and staff contributed approximately \$5,000 worth of new toys, games, clothing, gift cards and other items in celebration of the season.

HBCF Manager Patti Kane commented, *"It is truly uplifting to witness the enduring generosity of home builders at the end of such a difficult year in the housing market. I am amazed that year after year, despite market conditions, MNCBIA members continue to give back to the community. Thanks to everyone who contributed!"*



(L to R) 2010 MNCBIA President, Guy Curley, HBCF Manager Patti Kane and MNCBIA President, Tom Farasy, pose behind a mountain of toys.

This year's drive benefited homeless and needy children in programs at the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF). NCCF is a private, nonprofit agency who for nearly a century, has been serving families in the national capital area. ✨