

Community Builders

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the Home Builders Care Foundation*

Giving Back to Our Community

Winter 2012

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HomeAid Washington DC Finishing Project at Sasha Bruce House

After more than two years of needs assessment, architectural planning, fire code analysis, structural repairs and permitting, work is nearly complete at Sasha Bruce House (SBH).

SBH is an emergency youth shelter owned and operated by Sasha Bruce Youthwork and a flagship “safe home” in the Capitol Hill area of Washington, DC. It is DC’s only open-access short-term shelter for young people. It is open 24 hours a day, serving youth ages 11 to 17. Back in 2010, then President-Elect Obama did community service at the shelter by helping paint the boy’s dorm.



The SBH program runs at capacity (10 beds total) year long. Onsite services include crisis intervention; individual, group, and family counseling; case management, support for shelter graduates, and temporary respite care.

With the constant demand to safely shelter kids from the street, SBH had a great need to add more bed units at SBH. But in order to increase needed bed capacity, District regulators required improved fire-protection and a better system of egress.

Home Builders Care's HomeAid Washington, DC chapter answered the call to help. The new exterior staircase and larger upstairs windows are being installed at the end of February.

With all its improvements, the project ended up costing close to \$100,000 but will add five new bed units, a 50% capacity increase. **Stovall Smith Neyman and Associates, Aon Risk Solutions, and R&F Metals, Inc.** provided the much appreciated pre-construction work needed for permitting and **Comstock Services LLC** served as Builder Captain.

The mission of Sasha Bruce Youthwork is to improve the lives of runaway, homeless, abused, and neglected and at-risk youth and their families in the Washington area. The organization provides shelter, counseling, life skills training and positive youth development activities to approximately 1,500 youth and 5,000 family members each year.

Home Builders Care to be Honored by Housing Unlimited, Inc.



You are invited to join Home Builders Care and other community members at Housing Unlimited Inc.'s (HUI) 2012 Welcome Home Celebration event on May 22 at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda.

HUI's 2012 honorees include Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services and MNCBIA's own Home Builders Care Foundation, who has assisted HUI over the years on a number of renovation projects.

HUI is one of HBCF's fabulous partner nonprofit organizations located in Montgomery County, MD. HUI provides independent supportive housing for people with psychiatric disabilities and currently owns 48 homes serving 140 individuals. They are growing!

With almost 300 individuals on its waiting list, HUI must continue to expand to meet the ever-growing need. Home numbers 49 and 50 are coming in 2012! [Click here](#) to join in the celebration!

Celebrating with the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

On February 2, MCCH announced that its Silver Flower Homes project has been awarded funding under HUD Section 811 for low-income, disabled persons. At the same event, MCCH also dedicated New Takoma Homes, two small apartment complexes that now house six formerly homeless families. HBCF assisted with the renovation of these two new properties.

At the dedication ceremony, with partners Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban



Development, and the Montgomery County Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs, Home Builders Care Foundation President Hugh Carroll made the following remarks:

Home Builders Care Foundation and another foundation contributed a combined \$45,000 for the renovation of two buildings elsewhere in Takoma Park that will house six families.

Special needs housing is vital for the community and contributions from many are needed to make these kinds of projects successful.

Builders want to help because we see the need in the community. We see the homeless adults, a great percentage of whom are disabled.

We see the families displaced by the loss of a job, or struggling to make ends meet when bills pile up.

We see these needs and we are compelled to respond.

Home Builders Care Foundation contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars plus in-kind contributions to expand the county's primary facility for homeless men three years ago. We were honored to have that facility named the Home Builders Care Assessment Center. We are the non-profit organization that was created by the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association (MNCBIA).

It is no secret that this has been one of the worst business climates for home builders in recent years. Many in the industry have lost their jobs. Many builders and trade contractors are still struggling to stay afloat. Yet we still care about our communities and are still finding ways to give back because we believe and agree with the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH) that everyone deserves the dignity of a home.

The Home Builders Care Foundation has been around for 28 years and we hope to be around for many more years – continuing to build hope and end homelessness.

We are enthusiastic to continue working with MCCH and Coalition Homes as the emphasis has shifted toward permanent supportive housing integrated into the community.

Builders are hands-on people who like to see the results of their work. With MCCH and Coalition Homes we know when we participate in a project it will be successful and the results will show.

Volunteers have helped with landscaping, and companies have donated landscaping materials at this and several other apartments.

Furniture, food and interior decorating are contributed to help residents get started in their new home.

Isn't that the kind of community we all want to live in – where all of us use our talent and treasure to help those in need?

I will conclude with a suggestion for improved health. A report that was published in the December, 2011 issue of The International Journal of Person Centered Medicine, found that people who give back

to others lead more happy and healthy lives than those who do not volunteer. So let's all continue to lend a hand and have happier and healthier lives.

Home Builders Care Foundation Honors Community Service Winners



The Home Builders Care Foundation (HBCF) presented its' 2011 Community Service Awards at the association's January 26th dinner meeting. The award is presented annually to individuals or organizations 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.

The first award of the evening, a *Tom Sawyer Award* for in-kind assistance, was presented to **MidSouth Building Supply**. MidSouth played a key role on a renovation project for St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville MD.

For 150 years, St. Ann's has cared for the poor in our Nation's Capital. Today St. Ann's operates three residential programs and a community day care center and serves over 300 people each year. Their Children's Residential Program provides care for infants and young children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. This past summer, Home Builders Care led a renovation of the Children's Wing to help make the facility look and feel more like a home.

Before the renovation, there wasn't much common space in the dorm-style wing and the kitchen dated back to 1961. Construction plans called for a wall to be knocked down and the kitchen expanded to not only improve the dining area, but also serve more as a gathering place. The bulk of the project called for new cabinets, countertops and flooring. The project received a tremendous boost when MidSouth made a key 100% in-kind donation of upgraded kitchen cabinets and countertops.

The next *Tom Sawyer Award* was presented to the **National Football League Players Association (NFLPA)**, Washington, DC, former player's chapter, a group of gentleman with whom builders have had the pleasure to work side-by-side with at St. Ann's.

HBCF and the local NFLPA chapter came together in 2011 with Touchdown for Homes, a new nationwide charitable outreach program of the National Association of Home Builders and the NFLPA that aims to bring together local home builders' associations and former NFL players to strengthen communities by building or renovating homes for children or families in need and veterans.

The Touchdown for Homes program launched in Washington, DC, with the St. Ann's project and members of the former players' chapter were excited to play a key role. As Calvin Snowden, president of

the chapter who played defense for the Cardinals, Bills, and Chargers, said, “Every child and every family should have a safe, comfortable place that feels like home, whether it is temporary like here at St. Ann’s, or a permanent home to call their own.” With Spain Musgrove, a former Redskin, coordinating chapter volunteers, the players helped lay flooring, install cabinets and paint.

The *Directors Award*, recognizing an MNCBIA member who helps broaden the vision of Home Builders Care, was presented to **Newport Partners**, who helped spearhead HBCF’s first energy-retrofit project.

The project was for Sasha Bruce Youthwork, a Washington, DC, nonprofit that seeks to improve the lives of homeless, runaway and disconnected youth in the nation’s capital. Each year, over 1,500 youth and 5,000 of their family members receive shelter, transitional living, counseling and a wide range of support from Sasha Bruce.

By lending its energy expertise, Newport helped HBCF’s HomeAid Washington DC chapter obtain the first \$40,000 of grant funds from a new national Environmental Sustainability Program (ESP) funded by a grant from the Walmart Foundation to HomeAid America.

The purpose of the Walmart ESP grant program to HomeAid is to retrofit existing shelter facilities with energy efficient upgrades, allowing the service providers to reduce their operating costs on energy by 40%. In the case of Sasha Bruce’s REACH program, this amounted to \$5,000 a year.

Additionally, Newport helped secure an in-kind donation of \$10,000 in sophisticated monitoring equipment from the US Dept. of Energy to study the future energy use of the home after project completion.

The final award of the evening, the *Community Builder Award*, was presented to **Miller and Smith Homes**, who undertook a whole house renovation for the Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children (CSAAC) in Gaithersburg, MD.

CSAAC is the largest provider in the nation to serve individuals with autism exclusively with comprehensive programs from early childhood through retirement. CSAAC homes provide individuals with an alternative to living in an institution or in their parents’ homes, and allow residents to exercise independence as adults.

The \$90,000 renovation included adding a third bedroom and a third full bath. Additionally, the kitchen and two existing baths were completely redone, whole house worn-out carpeting was replaced with more durable flooring, and other improvements were made to enhance the dignity of the home. To complete the job, Miller and Smith secured the services of more than 20 subcontractors and suppliers, and in-kind donations to the tune of more than \$58,000.

The cooperation, dedication and spirit of these 2011 Community Service Award Winners are excellent examples of why the Home Builders Care charitable construction program succeeds in helping end homelessness by improving the lives of at-risk individuals and families in our communities.

St. Charles Expands Land Stewardship with Forestry Initiative

The St. Charles Companies, long a proponent of marrying sustainability models in land development with the growth of a live/work/play master-planned community, has announced the start of the Piney Reach Forest Management Initiative. Through the initiative, this 9,100 acre community hopes to achieve SFI or FSC certification on its forested land, ensuring an improvement in the quality of St. Charles forested areas and cycling diseased and poorly formed lumber to certified mills to be sustainably harvested.



“The St. Charles community will soon notice corrective cutting along several of its thoroughfares,” explained St. Charles Companies CEO, Alan Shearer. “This is actually the first step toward a long-term goal of establishing healthy forests within our community. This nationally recognized program will boost the natural benefits of the forest while allowing for healthy harvesting – always ensuring that we are growing more wood than we are harvesting.”

The St. Charles Companies is working hand-in-hand with forestry consultant, Fred Schatzki, R.F. of American Forest Management, Inc. Mr. Schatzki commented, “Companies such as St. Charles that make the choice to actively manage the valuable timberlands that complement their developments are to be commended for their investment in time and management of such a precious community asset. “

All trees selected for harvesting will be designated by a qualified Maryland Registered Forester. Selection is based on identifying areas that have biologically and financially mature timber and areas that are in poor condition due to prior management activities and that are in need of improvement. Meanwhile, the removal of diseased, invasive and unhealthy trees will improve the overall health and vigor of the forest through judicious removals, will protect and enhance wildlife habitat, protect soil and water resources and enhance the visual appeal of the forest. [Click here](#) for a list of FAQs about the Forestry Program.

William Shipp Named New Chair for the Advisory Board for the Community Foundation for Prince George's County



Attorney **William M. Shipp**, a dedicated philanthropist, volunteer and lifetime resident of this region, is the new Board Chair of The Community Foundation for Prince George’s County (CFPGC), an affiliate of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. Shipp is Managing Director of O’Malley, Miles, Nysten & Gilmore, P.A., a regional business law firm based in Maryland.

In making the announcement, CFPGC Executive Director Desiree Griffin-Moore said, “I am delighted to welcome Bill Shipp as our new Board Chair. Bill’s commitment to the greater Prince George’s community – not only through his professional work but volunteer efforts including citizen boards and commissions, business and charitable organizations – makes him an asset to The Community Foundation, our donors and the nonprofit organizations we serve.” Shipp has served on the CFPGC Advisory Board and its development committee since 2007.

“I look forward to working with The Community Foundation’s staff, board members, donors and many community partners in ensuring equity, access and opportunity for all residents of our county,” said Shipp. For example, in the past year, the CFPGC and its community of donors granted more than \$1 million to organizations serving needy residents of the county. The Foundation concentrates its giving on safety net programs, quality education, and workforce development.

Shipp plans to continue to grow the base of nonprofit organizations the Foundation supports by expanding the number of individuals and corporations with donor advised funds at the Foundation. “I am particularly interested in raising the visibility and relevance of The Community Foundation in the Prince George’s corporate sector so businesses are more engaged in supporting our programs,” he said.

He succeeds Kwasi Holman, who served as CFPGC Board Chair since 2008. Under Holman’s leadership, the foundation grew its assets and connected with new business partners. “It’s a pleasure to come into a vibrant board ready to continue the good work of past board chairs such as Kwasi and Artis Hampshire-Cowan, who have built a strong foundation in the community,” he said.

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