

# Chip Merlin Memorial Project



## Home Builders Care Assessment Center

600A East Gude Drive, Rockville, MD 20850



### About Chip Merlin:



Mr. Charles "Chip" Merlin served as Builder Captain for the original construction of the Men's Emergency Shelter in 2000. In this pivotal role, Chip led the efforts of the Home Builders Care Foundation to complete construction of the state-of-the-art facility within a tight timeframe and budget, as well as helped secure over \$500,000 worth of in-kind contributions of labor, materials and financial support from nearly 100 building industry members for the project. A well-respected and energetic homebuilding professional, Chip also served as President of the Home Builders Care Foundation and was active in several other charitable organizations.

### About the Construction of the Home Builders Care Assessment Center:

The original shelter was dedicated on November 1, 2000 just in time for the busy winter season. The new permanent emergency shelter for homeless men was the result of an exciting public/private partnership between the Home Builders Care Foundation (HBCF), the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH) and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to the shelter's construction, emergency shelter for homeless men in Montgomery County was rudimentary and consisted of three temporary trailers parked at this site on Gude Drive.

The Men's Emergency Shelter was expanded in 2009 and renamed the Home Builders Care Assessment Center in recognition of HBCF's ongoing efforts to provide shelter to those who need it, and help to end homelessness in our County.

Today, the new outdoor patio and picnic pavilion at the Home Builders Care Assessment Center is being dedicated to Chip Merlin's memory in recognition of his enduring goodwill, distinguished career service to build shelter for others in need, and his formidable leadership and exemplary service as Builder Captain.

Special thanks is due to Ted Smart, MDC Services LLC; Bruce Hutchinson, AIA Architect; Stephen McLaughlin, landscape architect; A. Morton Thomas, civil engineering; Evergro Landscaping; the entire staff at MCCH, Montgomery County, and Mr. Merlin's family. Thanks also to Isiah Leggett, County Executive, for helping us dedicate this new outdoor space.

### About Shelter and Services at the Home Builders Care Assessment Center:

The shelter is a year-round, 24/7 shelter for men experiencing homelessness in Montgomery County. Operated by MCCH, the shelter serves approximately 750 men throughout the course of a year. Shelter residents have access to basic amenities such as showers, beds, laundry and dining facilities, as well as a variety of supportive services to help residents exit homelessness more quickly, including: thorough assessments, case management, vocational counseling and job training, health education classes, in-house 12-step meetings and mobile medical services.

