

Contributing to Community

Homebuilders—Giving Back To The Community With Compassion And Caring

Bell Builders Helps Revitalize Community in Kenya

The Mercy Center Foundation USA, Inc. is a Washington based non-profit volunteer organization with a mission to provide clean water, health care and education to a village of 40,000 people in Lare, Kenya.

Frank Bell, of Bell Builders, Inc., is one of those volunteers instrumental in underwriting a substantial portion of the operating costs for this newly emerging foundation.

Since its' creation in 2003, foundation volunteers have constructed a nine-room clinic that provides basic health care to 1,000 or more patients per month. In addition, the Rose Guest House Training Center was built to provide housing for medical staff and a site for preventive health education.

In the coming year, the Foundation will begin planning for the Mercy Academy, a secondary school that will educate 350-400 girls. Volunteers in education, architecture, solar design and more are being sought to help plan for a building that utilizes passive solar power and electricity for operation. The organization welcomes input and participation in any facet of its development.

Mercy Center will hold its annual fund raising gala on October 4, 2007. For information and to find out how you can reserve a table of 10, purchase and ad in the Gala's program or supply an item for the live auction, contact Jocelyn Bell at 240-793-3188 or email bell.joss@comcast.net . Also visit www.mercyproject.org. ✨

christopher consultants, ltd. Awards Scholarships

christopher consultants, ltd. awarded its' first James R. Maier Memorial Scholarship for Surveyors. Alton Echols, IV of Lovettsville, VA, and Jessica Schulte of Pasadena, MD, received \$500 to further their pursuit of a career in Land Surveying.

This scholarship was created in memory of James R. Maier Jr. who was a longtime employee of christopher consultants and who lost his long battle with cancer in September of 2006. He was involved in all aspects of the surveying profession for 36 years, the last 24 in Northern Virginia. Jim was an employee of christopher consultants for 19 years. ✨

Calvert Liaison Committee Recognizes Student Achievements

The Calvert County Liaison Committee continued its tradition of honoring the achievements of students in the trades programs at the Calvert Career Center and presented five students with gift certificates to Sneades Ace Hardware, along with certificates of recognition at the May 10th meeting of the Calvert Career Center Local Advisory Committee. Vice Chairman of the Calvert County Liaison committee, **Trent Jaklitsch**, made the presentation to the students. Awards were presented to Ryan Whitney, a Senior at Huntingtown High school and second year carpentry student; Colton Poundsberry, a Senior at Huntingtown High school and a dual completer in carpentry and CAD; Benjamin Wood, a Junior at Huntingtown High school and second year carpentry student; Jarrett Smith, a Junior at Northern High school and level two masonry student; and Charles Groce, a Junior at Northern High school and level one electricity student. ✨

Home Builders Inc. Continues its Fight Against Breast Cancer

Home Builders Inc. continued its tradition of fundraising for breast cancer and sent a four-woman team to the 2-day, 39-mile Avon Walk for Breast cancer in Boston, MA, this past May 19-20. Each participant was required to raise a minimum of \$1,800 to participate in the walk. HBI raised more than \$12,000 in 2007 by holding various fundraisers including raffles and yard sales and accepting donations from many businesses and individuals.

And their commitment doesn't stop there. HBI continues fundraising throughout the year as another team is set to walk in Charlotte, NC, this coming October. Their goal is to top their 2006 fundraising number of \$15,000.

The Avon Breast Cancer Crusade's commitment to this cause is unwavering, as is HBI's enthusiasm and commitment! ✨

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

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Hospice Caring Celebrates Its' New Resource Center



On June 22, Hospice Caring, Inc. held a formal opening and dedication ceremony of its new resource center at The Cottage in Rohrer Park in Gaithersburg. The center was dedicated to the late Joshua M. Freeman, an MNCBIA member whose family foundation provided Hospice with its first ever \$100,000 opportunity grant to build the addition. The center was constructed by **Mitchell & Best Homebuilders, LLC** under the personal leadership of **Rob Mitchell** and **Jim Brookfield**, who garnered support for the project from its subcontractor colleagues. The **Home Builders Care Foundation** provided additional assistance to help see the project through completion.

Mary Sundeen, President of Hospice Caring expressed her thanks. "Hospice Caring is extremely grateful to Mitchell & Best Homebuilders for the assistance, guidance and expertise they provided during the planning and construction of the 1,037 square foot addition to the Hospice Caring Cottage. The addition is now home to "Joshua's Place: A Resource for Life" the first end-of-life resource center in Montgomery County. Hospice Caring is also grateful to Home Builders Care Foundation for contributing to the project. Your support has made such a difference in our community." ✨

MNCBIA Honored For Supporting Accessible Housing

MNCBIA was recognized by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the National Organization on Disability with the prestigious 2007 *National Disability Initiative Award* in June.

The award is given annually to an NAHB local or state homebuilding affiliate in recognition of its efforts to create programs or services that enhance the lives of persons in their community who are living with disabilities. This year's award was presented to MNCBIA for its great strides in making accessible housing more available through its **Design for Life Montgomery** program.

In spearheading the Design for Life effort in Montgomery County, the MNCBIA worked with the local county council as well as the county's Commission on People with Disabilities to develop a voluntary two-tiered certification program—the first of its kind in Maryland—to increase the number of new and existing single-family homes and townhouses that include accessible design features important to the growing and diverse community.

To learn more about the Design for Life program, visit www.mncbia.org and click on the Design for Life logo. ✨



Creating Homes

Homebuilders—Responsive, Responsible And Respected

Local Developer Donates to CASA of Maryland

Norman Dreyfuss, executive vice president of IDI Maryland, recently donated \$50,000 of his own money to CASA of Maryland, a non-profit group that helps immigrants and the Latino community.

“This community has been good to me and this is my way of giving back a little to the community,” says Norman.

IDI has had a contract with CASA and Norman says he was impressed with the strong work ethic he saw on a recent visit, which reminded him of his parents who immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1937 and were hourly workers all their lives.

“These people showed up at 4:30 and 5:00 in the morning so they could be first on the list [for jobs]. That shows how much they really want to make money for themselves and to support their families and make a life here,” he said. “I have a big spot in my heart for immigrants who come to this country.”

In addition to his CASA donation, Norman maintains a scholarship for college students through the Jewish Social Services Agency in Rockville. He is also the co-founder of the advocacy group, Affordable Housing Conference in Montgomery County. ✨

MNCBIA Makes Safety a Priority

MNCBIA, as a member of the Maryland Home Builders Safety Alliance (MHBSA), recognizing the importance of continuing a collaborative relationship with Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) to foster a safer and more healthful work environment in the residential construction industry, was one of the signatories to the Safety Alliance renewal agreement this past May. Also pledging to do their part for safety were a number of high-volume builders, including **Avalon Bay Communities, Beazer Homes Corp., Centex Homes, Clark Builders Group, K. Hovnanian Homes, KB Home Mid-Atlantic, NVR Inc. and Winchester Homes.**

The Safety Alliance was formed in 2006 with the common goal of reducing injuries, illnesses and fatalities among residential building trades; including providing training designed for both English and non-English speaking workers. After successfully meeting the goals in the first year, founding members voted unanimously to continue the Alliance and to use their collective expertise to help foster a culture of prevention.

If you are interested in being a part of the Alliance contact **Larry Friert**, Director, Safety & Risk Management for Winchester Homes at 301-803-4747 or email larry.friert@whihomes.com. ✨

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The Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association (MNCBIA) is a regional organization of more than 730 companies representing the interests of more than 18,000 individuals in the building and development industry operating in Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties in Maryland and in the city of Washington DC. The MNCBIA is affiliated with the Maryland State Builders Association (MSBA) located in Annapolis and is a local affiliated Chapter of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) located in Washington DC.



Building Neighborhoods

Homebuilders—Creating Neighborhoods With Purpose and Vision

FACTS Dedicates 2007 House

The latest house to be constructed by The Foundation of Automotive and Construction Technology for Students (FACTS) was dedicated in May. The house resides in Clinton, MD, and was the work of more than 160 Prince George's County Public School students.

FACTS is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing high school students the skills and work opportunities necessary for success in today's competitive job market. Since 1981, FACTS has provided nearly 4,000 students with hands-on experience including the challenges and successes of actually building a house.

More than 75 people were on hand for the unveiling of the new home and to applaud the efforts of the students as they received awards for student achievement in landscape design,



architectural drafting, construction, automotive trades and interior and exterior design. MNCBIA's own **Stephen Paul** with Mid-Atlantic Builders, Inc. was present to give the architectural design award. Stephen is a member of the FACTS Board of Directors, as well as a number of other MNCBIA members including, **Bill Bilo** with DICO Inc., **Rob Jacobs** with Acacia FSB, **Roy Kilby** with K & P Builders, **Steve Mauersberg** with Ben Dyer Associates, **Aaron Warren** with Warren Brothers Residential, and **Susan Matlick**, Executive Vice President of MNCBIA. Board members are involved with the purchase and development of the land for the project, onsite guidance and selling of the house.

They also pick up expenses that the school system can't cover as well as donate construction materials and their time to keep the program going.

This year's house is expected to sell for around \$500,000. All monies raised from the sale of the house are used as seed money for construction on the next year's house. ✨

Celebrating Christmas in April

Caruso Homes participated as a house sponsor for *Rebuilding Together's Christmas in April* program. On April 28, National Rebuilding Day, Caruso Homes and its volunteers and subcontractors donated their time, supplies and labor to renovate two homes—one located in Suitland, MD, and the other in the Symphony Village community located in Centreville, MD.

Prince George's County selected Edgar Johnson's three-story single family home located in Suitland as the first recipient. Johnson is 63 years old and has resided at this address for 28 years. His wife recently passed away and he has 8 children, one of whom is disabled with a pacemaker.

Mr. Johnson's home was in need of major repairs, and extensive modifications were made to both the interior and exterior of the house, including replacing hardware on all doors, painting the entire house and even landscaping, to name just a few of the improvements.

The second home, in Centreville, is that of William Ireland,

a 24-year-old man who is severely handicapped as a result of having muscular dystrophy. The homeowner had started to install a handicapped-accessible bathroom for her son and only was able to finish the outer frame. Caruso took on the challenge, not only making the bathroom fully accessible, but also decorating it in Baltimore Raven's décor, William's favorite team.

Of course neither of these jobs would have been successful without the participation of many of Caruso's subcontractors including, 84 Lumber, B&K Hardware, C&D Gutters, Choice Stairway, C&R Electric, David Benton Electric, Delgado Framing, Dennison Landscaping, Friel Lumber Company, Gregory J. Wood & Sons, H&H Woodworking, J.W. Shepherd Inc, Lighting by Design, L&L Company, MK&R Site Work, Parker Doors, Raley's Custom Painting and Renee's Painting.

National Rebuilding Day is Rebuilding Together's signature annual event, where tens of thousands of volunteers across the country team up with the organization's affiliates to repair homes, revitalize communities and restore the lives of thousands of homeowners in need. ✨