

*Vision House
Dedication Kicks
Off Community
Service Initiative*

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE IS COMPLETE

By Jay Schupack, Care Foundation Executive Director



Even during these tough times, the state of the economy and the homebuilding industry has not affected our industry's resolve to give back to our community. In fact, if the industry's recent outpouring of support is any indication, it seems the desire to give has only increased!



Vision House children accept the key to the most recent HomeAid project.



HomeAid
Master Builders Care

Our association and the Master Builders Care Foundation have committed to 100 community service projects during this, the 100th anniversary of the association.

The dedication of Vision House Building B in Renton this January kicked off the program. This building completes the three-structure Vision House Children's Village complex. Two previous projects were led by Conner Homes and CamWest Development.

HomeAid builder Captain, Centex Homes, led the way on this latest project by coordinating construction of the new facility, which provides transitional housing and support services, primarily for children and homeless mothers.



Centex
Building at
Vision House
Children's Village.

One of those mothers, a kind and caring woman named Kathy, is a recent graduate of Vision House. Kathy was raised in an upper middle-class family and to the outside world, appeared to have every advantage such a lifestyle affords. But while everything looked okay on the outside, inside the family was falling apart. Kathy felt a lot of anger. She felt alone and unloved. She was a victim of sexual abuse.

At the age of 15, she left home for a life on the streets. To survive, she became a good "hustler" and learned there was good money in supply and delivery of drugs, as well as prostitution. After having four children very close in age, her "thug" support system dwindled, and it became more difficult to attain money. She found herself on the streets again, this time with four young children.

Kathy heard about Vision House from friends. Though all the rules seemed a bit square and unrealistic at first, she soon found people there who cared about her and her children and started to re-shape the way she viewed the world. The staff at Vision House helped her identify manageable steps that led to changing old habits. In this safe environment, Kathy was able to say goodbye to her previous life, friends

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Our Association Dedicates Bench in Honor of Jennifer Dunn

Our association recently donated one of two new benches at Vision House in Renton in honor of the late Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn (WA-8th). Association President John Day, of John Day Homes in North Bend, presented a special plaque to Dunn's son, King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn, at the Jan. 15 dedication of Vision House in Renton.

Vision House, which is located in the congressional district Dunn served for 12 years, is the third transitional housing facility dedicated by the Master Builders Care Foundation through its HomeAid Program in nine months. "We felt like this would be a fitting tribute to Congresswoman Dunn, who dedicated her life to serving the people of Washington State," said Day.

The plaque on the bench reads, "In memory of Jennifer Dunn – Mother, Member of Congress, Advocate for Children."

Reagan Dunn expressed his sincere appreciation for our association's tribute to his mother. He said the bench's location, in front of a transitional housing facility, was particularly meaningful because she was committed to helping families in need turn their lives around.

A second bench was dedicated to Sylvia Holden, one of the founding partners and a major supporter of Vision House.

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and ways of living. Kathy learned new ways to cope; how to be a better parent; how to handle finances.

Today, Kathy is a couple months shy of finishing a medical assistant program. She's now excited about living! As the new building, which will be known as the Centex Building, was dedicated, she thanked all those who helped build it, saying, "This beautiful housing is such a blessing...I know it will be a blessing for many families to come."

The homebuilding industry has played a vital role by creating housing for those with circumstances similar to Kathy's. By partnering with nonprofits that provide services to homeless in transition, the Master Builders Care Foundation, HomeAid builder captains and trades contribute to the housing. The nonprofit maintains the housing and provides support services.

Dedication of this new facility was a special day. Partners and friends gathered to dedicate the area's newest HomeAid project. The Master Builders Care Foundation, our association, Vision House, HomeAid builder captain Centex Homes, 78 trade partner contributors, public officials from King County and the City of Renton all participated with the

pride of a new parent as keys to the Centex Building were handed over to Vision House.

2009 President John Day reminded the gathering, "This is the first of 100 community service projects that will be completed by the association during its 100th anniversary year."

"Centex did a terrific job leading this project. They continued through thick and thin. Vision House is such a great group to work with. The team really melded together," stated Tracy Cromwell, president of the Master Builders Care Foundation.

During the ceremony, Cromwell thanked Centex's Doug Barnes and presented him with an original statue in honor of their contribution. While accepting the honor Barnes spoke of contributions made by the trades and Centex' staff. One employee even cut his cherished long hair and raised enough cash to contribute twenty-three \$50 gift cards, one for each family currently at Vision House.

This is the third homeless shelter dedicated by the Master Builders Care Foundation in the past nine months. In fact, it's just the beginning of giving for the year as our association and its members resolve to celebrate our Centennial Year with 100 community service projects. ★

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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