



2008 BUILDERS' BALL HAS SELECTED THEIR CHARITIES

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Washington, DC – The Builders' Ball Organizing Committee is proud to announce that they have selected three charities to be primary recipients of proceeds from the upcoming 2008 Builders' Ball, to be held November 8, 2008 at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. Each charity has a specific project that it hopes to complete within its community. The purpose of the Builders' Ball is to raise enough funds at our event to support these worthy projects.

The programs of the three selected charities are profiled below. Each is unique and their projects will benefit communities within the local Washington, DC area.

Covenant House of Washington, DC helps get homeless teens off the street and provides an array of services ranging from housing to mental healthcare, child care, and parenting preparation. Rivalries between neighborhoods, drug sales and addictions, car thefts and chop shops—these are elements of the dangerous lifestyle that have become all too normal for some of these youths growing up in low-income neighborhoods. The Covenant House project, entitled *The Artisans Program*, is a job training initiative in woodworking. The program prepares disadvantaged, out-of-school youth in the Washington, DC area to enter the workforce with a decent paying job and a career path in the building trades, such as carpentry, construction or millwork. This program will help open doors and instill positive development and good work habits. Program participants can shape their thoughts and aspirations, changing the focus from simply earning a paycheck to building a life filled with things that a youth on the street rarely ever thinks of—a career with good pay, health insurance, medical benefits, a safe and stable place to call home, a college degree, a savings account, and a retirement plan.

The Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, Rockville, MD, enables adults with disabilities to be valued, independent, and integrated members of the community through the provision and support of a home environment where residents can learn and experience independent living styles. Within its mission, JFGH provides programs and services which increase the independence, dignity, choice and community inclusion of the individuals it serves. JFGH provides training to enhance independent living skills, personal assistance with daily living, and long-term support. Their project is to modify their inaccessible homes to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and to meet the requirements for their aging residents who will require mobility assistance. Improvements include creating wheelchair ramps; widening doorways and/or hallways; bathroom retrofitting to include wheelchair accessible showers and support bars; kitchen retrofitting to ensure wheelchair height work spaces and faucets; and safety modifications.

Perry School Community Services Center (PSCSC), Washington, DC – Through a collaborative comprehensive and integrated approach to social services, youth development and economic empowerment, PSCSC eradicates poverty, its causes and consequences, resulting in positive outcomes for youth, adults, and families within its defined service area. Their goals are to help families out of poverty and toward living wage incomes and preventing young people from living in poverty as adults through college degrees and marketable skills. Their project assesses residents for interests in and aptitude for development-related work including plumbing, HVAC, electrical construction, architecture and other construction related jobs. This program will prepare people for construction-related jobs.

The 2008 Builders' Ball also supports, through a small grant, **CANSTRUCTION**, a project of the **Washington Architectural Foundation, Washington, DC** - **CANSTRUCTION** is held yearly to assist in donating food to the Capital Area Food Bank. **CANSTRUCTION** is a design competition in which teams from the architecture/engineering/construction industry build fanciful structures out of canned goods. These structures are on display for a week and judged. After the judging, the structures are taken apart and the cans and boxes of food are donated to the Capital Area Food Bank. The Washington Architectural Foundation provides education and resources to build a better Washington, DC. Foundation volunteers provide hundreds of hours of service in DC neighborhoods and schools each year through three programs – Architecture in the Schools; Community Design Services and Design Forum.