

HOMEAID HOUSTON'S PROJECT PLAYHOUSE GETS THE SQUEEZE AT MINUTE MAID PARK

HomeAid Houston, a charity sponsored by the Greater Houston Builder's Association and the local arm of HomeAid National, is launching PROJECT PLAYHOUSE Monday, June 25th as the elaborate 8 foot by 10 foot playhouse officially moves into Minute Maid Park in the "Squeeze Play" area. The Houston Astros and Royce Homes have teamed with HomeAid Houston to make this fund raising effort a success for the homeless.

Royce Homes donated the construction of the playhouse, a miniature replica of a Texas-style cabin complete with cedar siding, tin roof, front porch and outfitted inside with a loft, benches and a flat screen television. Members of the GHBA donated the necessary materials and labor for construction. The Houston Astros have donated team memorabilia to decorate the interior of the playhouse and are showcasing the completed playhouse in Minute Maid Park beginning June 28th. The playhouse will be on display through July. Raffle tickets of \$5 each will be sold throughout this period. The winner of the raffle will be announced at the Astros game on July 28th. The funds raised will help support future HomeAid Houston projects.

Project Playhouse originated in Orange County, California as HomeAid's signature fundraiser. This will be the first year HomeAid Houston is partnering with a local builder to construct a playhouse.

"It has always been a priority for Royce Builders to give back to the community that has been so good to us over the past 23 years," said Shawn Speer, Royce Builders Texas Regional Manager. "When HomeAid Houston approached us about being the designated builder for this generous project, we were more than happy to sign on. This is exactly what we like to get involved in because it brings a number of different segments of the homebuilding industry together for a great cause."

“This exciting and unique fund raising effort has great potential in so many ways,” said Stuart Feldman, chairman of Project Playhouse and a member of the HomeAid Houston Board of Directors. “An obvious benefit is to raise funds for new HomeAid construction projects that provide transitional housing for Houston’s homeless. It is also a powerful way to generate public awareness about the homeless and HomeAid’s commitment to assisting those less fortunate.”

“Project Playhouse is a fun way to generate funds for future HomeAid projects,” said Bette Moser, executive director of HomeAid Houston. “We are so fortunate to have the professionals at Royce Homes, the Houston Astros, and the numerous GHBA members who have offered their services and materials, to make this project a reality. With the interest and enthusiasm we are experiencing, we are confident that Project Playhouse could become an annual fund raiser.”

HomeAid Houston and Dakotablue Homes are teaming together for a second project for 2007 to construct two 4200 square foot homes for Boys and Girls Harbor. These two houses will allow 16 youths to join the Boys and Girls Harbor program. Boys and Girls Harbor was founded 60 years ago. The organization has been committed to providing healthy, comprehensive care for children and families in crisis. For children who are experiencing family hardship, neglect, abandonment or abuse, the Harbor provides a family environment in a home setting. Through its programs, the Harbor strives to help children learn to overcome self-destructive patterns, break cycles of abuse, develop social skills, learn responsibility, and work toward becoming healthy, happy and productive members of society.

For more information on HomeAid Houston and upcoming or past projects, go to www.homeaidhouston.org