

## **HOMEAID HOUSTON SELECTS NEW HOMELESS PROJECT FOR 2007**

The first HomeAid Houston meeting of 2007, held in January, launched one of a number of projects planned for the year. With the HomeAid Board of Directors' unanimous vote, Boys & Girls Harbor became the first project of the new year.

The mission of Boys & Girls Harbor is to provide 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 towards becoming healthy, happy and productive members of society.

The true essence of life at the Harbor is children living in a family environment with house parents. As many as eight boys or girls, ages five to 18 years, live in one of nine residential homes. Each home is staffed by trained house parents, many of whom have children of their own. The program is designed to give each new arrival a feeling of security, because until that happens there cannot be any adjustment or growth. Each child learns what is expected in terms of rules, routines, limits and boundaries.

An ambitious improvement plan has been underway at Boys & Girls Harbor to add a total of six new homes. Two have already been completed, two are currently under construction and the final two will be the new 2007 HomeAid Houston Project. The two homes undertaken by HomeAid Houston will allow an additional 16 youths to join the program.

Lenny Dalton, founder and CEO of DakotaBlue Homes has agreed to join the project as Builder Captain. He and his company will donate the construction of both homes, each of which will be approximately 4,200 square feet. DakotaBlue Homes builds in 10 communities throughout the Houston area with prices ranging from the \$100s to more than \$300,000.

“HomeAid Houston is thrilled to be partnering with DakotaBlue Homes to provide two new homes for the children of Boys & Girls Harbor,” said HomeAid Executive Director Bette Moser. “This is an incredible agency with a long history of providing hope for children in Houston. We are blessed to have the opportunity to build their homes.”