

WHAT DO HOMEAID HOUSTON, ROYCE HOMES AND THE HOUSTON ASTROS HAVE IN COMMON? PROJECT PLAYHOUSE

For HomeAid Houston, fundraising for the homeless is child's play! The charity recently launched Project Playhouse, a unique method of raising funds through the construction of an elaborate playhouse that is raffled off to the public. (HomeAid Houston is a charity sponsored by the Greater Houston Builder's Association and the local arm of HomeAid National.)

Project Playhouse originated in Orange County, California as HomeAid's signature fundraiser. For the first time this year, HomeAid Houston will partner with a local builder to construct an elaborate 8'x10' playhouse that will feature all of the "bells and whistles" that make these playhouses so impressive.

Royce Homes is constructing the playhouse with the help of GHBA members who will donate materials, labor and time. The Houston Astros have also joined the Project Playhouse team and will showcase the completed playhouse in Minute Maid Park across from the "Squeeze Play." The playhouse will be on display beginning June 28 through July. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout this period for \$5. The raffle winner will be announced at the GHBA July Bash on Wednesday, July 25. The funds raised will help support future HomeAid Houston projects.

"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."

The playhouse design incorporates a baseball theme, utilizing a mix of materials such as cedar window shutters, stone and a tin roof. The interior of the house will include Astros baseball memorabilia.

"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 Project Playhouse could become an annual fundraiser."

HomeAid Houston and Dakotablue Homes are teaming together for a second project for 2007 to construct two 4,200 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.