

DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

Troubled teens get some help from Colorado's homebuilders

The Denver Business Journal - May 19, 2006 by Michael Perrault Denver Business Journal

HomeAid Colorado, a philanthropic arm of the Colorado Association of Home Builders, will break ground this summer on a 14,000-square-foot residential treatment facility for homeless and troubled teens at the Lowry redevelopment project in east Denver.

"I think when it's all said and done, it will be our biggest project," said Laura Brayman, executive director of HomeAid Colorado.

John Laing Homes will lead a team of subcontractors and suppliers to create the first portion of the nearly two-acre campus, which will be comprised of four residential, ranch-style houses for 32 troubled and displaced youth.

The project is being built for Denver-based Third Way Center, which operates other residential treatment centers, the Joan Farley Academy alternative high school and a supervised follow-up program called Next Steps.

Home builders such as Beazer Homes, Engle Homes and McStain Enterprises use their own plans or those of social services organizations to create townhomes, duplexes, shelters and other facilities for those who've found themselves homeless because of sudden job losses, catastrophic illnesses, spousal desertion, domestic violence, child abuse or other life-changing tragedies, said Peter Simon, president of both HomeAid Colorado's board of directors and Beazer Homes in Colorado.

"We try to match the project to the organization in need," said Simon, noting that one builder manages a project, leveraging relationships with skilled labor and building trades to obtain donated labor and materials to build the homes.

The four houses at Lowry will be completed next year and will feature natural indoor lighting, central air conditioning, a central sound system, an open kitchen and dining area, classrooms, and staff and therapy offices. The homes will surround a central courtyard area created for outdoor and recreational activities.

For HomeAid Colorado, part of Newport Beach, Calif.-based HomeAid America, the treatment center at Lowry marks another in a long list of projects undertaken in the past seven years to provide housing and shelter for homeless people across the state. As part of a \$25 million, 10-year statewide construction campaign, the nonprofit organization's aim has been to design and build 50 shelters by 2012.

One project completed in March was a triplex shelter in north Boulder for the Emergency Family Assistance Association. Ceri Jones, construction manager at Engle Homes, headed the project, which included donated services and materials from nearly 40 companies, such as Alpine Lumber Co., C&S Drywall, GE Appliances and Kwal Paint.

Beazer Homes soon will head a project to build six townhomes for Partners in Housing in Colorado Springs, but Simon emphasized how much building trades and others contribute.

"Typically, home builders rely on an army of subcontractors to actually build the homes," Simon said. "This wouldn't work without their involvement, cooperation and commitment."

In recent years, Beazer, Village Homes and Standard Pacific Homes have led groups to create The Village I, II and III facilities for temporary homeless families run by Colorado Homeless Families in Arvada.

Although HomeAid Colorado has focused on building transitional homes, it's broadening that mission to help chronically homeless people as well, said Brayman, who discussed HomeAid's enhanced efforts with other chapter leaders during a national annual conference last week in Washington, D.C.

[Send us your comments](#) [More Latest News](#) →

» [Get the latest business news on the go!](#) Brought to you by Cingular