



AHBA & KATC Give \$175k to Acadiana Charities *2011 Home for the Holidays Proceeds Distributed*

Despite an uncertain economy, the people of Acadiana continue to display generosity and assist those less fortunate in the community, especially during the holiday season. This gracious spirit was unmistakable during the Acadian Home Builders Association (AHBA) and KATC-TV 3's 2011 Home for the Holidays project, where ticket sales numbers were the largest thus far.



Home for the Holidays is an annual event in which AHBA builder-members construct a new, state of the art home and then raffle it off, with proceeds benefiting local charities. This year, thanks to the continued generosity of the people of Acadiana, the project sold a record-breaking 5,488 tickets. Due to this achievement, AHBA and KATC were able to give nearly \$175,000 to their selected charities. In just seven years since the project's inception, the total amount of donations to date comes to an impressive \$925,000.

Last night, a reception was held to distribute the proceeds from the 2011 Home for the Holidays to local Acadiana charities and educational programs. Home for the Holidays Steering Committee Chairman Mac Gibson conducted the ceremony while other committee members presented the checks.

Habitat for Humanity has been a long-time adopted charity of AHBA, and they were awarded \$30,000 to make the American dream of home ownership a reality to even more people in the Acadiana area.

The committee gave \$37,500 to Faith House, whose protection of abused women is a great asset to the Lafayette community. Also receiving a \$37,500 check was The Children's Shelter at Acadiana Youth, Inc. which offers help, guidance, and sanctuary to children in crisis.

The committee gave \$45,000 to St. Michael Center for Veterans, which houses homeless vets and helps them to establish themselves. St. Michael's is one of the newest divisions of Catholic Service Centers, and Home for the Holidays believes it is

a priority to increase the shelter's abilities to aid as many of America's heroes as possible with a considerable donation.

In addition to the charities, a donation of \$2,000 was given to the UL Foundation through AHBA's scholarship fund. KATC and AHBA are aware of the powerful economic impact the university has on the Lafayette community. The home builder's association has always supported the construction program under UL's Industrial Technology Department in their efforts to educate tomorrow's builders.

Finally, the Professional Women in Building, a non-profit sister organization of AHBA whose members volunteered \$2,000. And, the Home for the Holidays Steering Committee supplemented \$21,000 to its legacy fund with the Community Foundation of Acadiana, which will ensure AHBA's contributions in the future.

Located in Copper Meadows subdivision, this year's Home for the Holidays was valued at over \$400,000 and was built by Phil Melancon of Greatwood Homes, L.L.C. The winner of the home was chosen during a drawing on December 7th, 2011.

A huge project like Home for the Holidays takes numerous volunteers and sponsors to be successful. At the reception, these important individuals and companies were recognized for their generosity. Platinum sponsors Greatwood Homes, L.L.C., Copper Meadows subdivision, Doug Ashy Building Materials, MidSouth Bank and News Talk KPEL 96.5 were all given plaques. The committee thanked the project's gold sponsors as well: Anderson Home Builders and The Daily Advertiser. Silver sponsors, friends, and supporters of Home for the Holidays were also recognized.



About Acadian Home Builders Association

The Acadian Home Builders Association is an organization of licensed builders and associates formed to promote professionalism and ethical business practices in providing quality housing that creates value for the homeowner and community. As a trade association for Acadiana's residential builders, AHBA provides its members with legislative lobbying, continuing education, networking opportunities, special events,

and workman's compensation insurance. The Acadian Home Builders Association seeks to develop a partnership with the public sector to achieve common goals and donates hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to non-profit shelter organizations in the Acadiana region.

