



Home Works

BUILDING CHARACTER | EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

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CONTACT:

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

Home Works of America
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HOME WORKS REPAIRS TO SEVEN AREA HOMES

COLUMBIA, S.C. (May 27, 2011) – Home Works, a faith-based effort, which enables volunteers to make repairs to the homes of the elderly and disabled, will join with nearly 70 youth volunteers on Monday, June 6 – Friday, June 10 to make repairs to seven homes, including Mrs. Beatrice Miller’s Columbia home at 2127 Waverly Street. Miller, a 78-year-old homeowner, lives alone on a fixed income and has been unable to replace her leaky roof or make several other home repairs.

The work session will include BB&T Bank employees partnering all week with youth to provide a brand new roof for Ms. Miller, and make the other necessary repairs to avoid having her home insurance cancelled. BB&T is sponsoring all the materials for the home, and will be led in the repairs by 16 yr old Josh Rogers, an experienced Home Works volunteer.

Throughout the week, volunteers will also make repairs including painting, adding handicap accessibility, roofing, and more to six other homes.

The Home Works volunteers are middle and high school youth who will work full days at the work site and stay at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church each night. Local church groups and other civic organizations will provide meals for the volunteers.

Additionally, because Home Works provides a structured, meaningful experience to youth volunteers, Richland County Arbitration will have 10 at-risk youth volunteers participating in the weeklong project.

For more information, or to arrange a work site visit at one of the seven area homes to see the impact Home Works makes for youth volunteers and homeowners, contact Hank Chardos at H.Chardos@homeworksusa.net.

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ABOUT HOME WORKS

Home Works of America is a nonprofit that was founded in 1996 to repair homes of homeowners in need, assist youth in their development and empower communities to meet the needs of their members. Based in Columbia, S.C., Home Works is a faith-based organization that brings together teenagers, churches, businesses, trades people, volunteers and homeowners. Over the last 15 years, more than 25,000 youth and adult volunteers have participated in Home Works-sponsored building projects at no cost to the homeowner. For more information, visit www.homeworksofamerica.org.



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BACKGROUNDER

What Is Home Works?

Home Works is a faith-based organization that provides home repairs for the elderly and disadvantaged through volunteers, donations and corporate sponsorships. Through its volunteer program, the organization strives to “assist youth in their development and empowering communities to meet the needs of its members.”

How Did It Begin?

The organization began in 1996 as Home Works of South Carolina but changed its name in October 2006 to reflect its expanding geographic area. Its founder, Hank Chardos, created the organization after attending a home-repair Salkehatchie mission trip with his oldest daughter, Jennifer. In 1996, Chardos organized the first work session of repairing homes in Johns Island, South Carolina, and recruited 110 volunteers with the help of Our Lady of Mercy Outreach.

How Has It Grown?

Home Works began working in collaboration with local service organizations, city and state government agencies and continued growing in size and adding partnerships. In 2000, the organization started a work session in Zorritos, Peru, to repair homes with other local churches. Home Works has also expanded its program to include work sessions in Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Peru. The repair sessions are ecumenical in spirit, held throughout the year and vary in length from one day to two weeks.

Home Works received the *South Carolina Secretary of State's Angel's Award* for spending nearly 98 cents of every dollar on its program in 2004. Then, in 2006, an anonymous donor pledged to fund staff salaries for a three-year period on a decreasing scale. Also beginning in 2006 The Benjamin Lilease & Hall Foundation was established. The children of Benjamin and LiLease Hall set up a fund in honor of their parents' 60th wedding anniversary. Established in 2007, the Foundation funds repairs to 100 houses over a two-year period and sponsors repairs of three church units that provide senior care. The Benjamin Lilease & Hall Foundation also finances the salary of a Home Works Project Director, the person who oversees the activities of work sessions. Without supporters' generosity towards Home Works, the organization would not be where it is today: having the resources to help hundreds of homeowners and church facilities.

For more information, contact
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www.HomeWorksofAmerica.org



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STAFF BIOGRAPHY

Executive Director

Hank Chardos is the founder and executive director of Home Works. Hank is responsible for the overall operations of Home Works and its future growth. He retired from the Internal Revenue Service after more than 31 years of employment. Hank and his wife Sally have five children and thirteen grandchildren. Hank's e-mail address is h.chardos@homeworksusa.net.

Administrative Assistant

Greg Rockwell is the Administrative Assistant. Greg is responsible for processing Homeowner applications, and communication with the volunteer community and Advisory Board. He is currently earning his Master's in Social Work at USC, and previously graduated from the College of Charleston in 2008. Greg's email is g.rockwell@homeworksusa.net.

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Board of Directors

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Earl McLeod	Home Builders Association of Greater Columbia, Pres
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Antjuan Seawright	Sunrise Consulting
Bobby Williams	Lizard's Thicket

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FACT SHEET

“The mission of Home Works is to show God’s love for all through service to others and to assist others in their faith journey. Home Works’ activities will focus on providing home repairs to homeowners in need, assisting youth in their development and empowering communities to meet the needs of its members.”

- Home Works began in 1996 and has served more than 1700 homeowners.
- Home Works covers the following areas:
 - South Carolina: Aiken, Charleston, Columbia, Fort Mill, Greenville, Johns Island, Horry County, Rock Hill, Wadmalaw Island
 - North Carolina: Fayetteville and Valle Crucis
 - Georgia: Augusta
 - Louisiana: Covington
 - Peru: Zorritos
- The program makes repairs to home at no cost. These repairs include roofing, repairing walls, painting, fixing windows, plumbing, electrical, installing wheelchair ramps, smoke detectors and floors.
- In 2004, Home Works received the *South Carolina Secretary of State's Angel's Award* for spending nearly 98 cents of every dollar on its program.
- Partnerships exist on three levels: donated labor, cash, and in-kind donations.
 - Donated labor is needed for electrical, plumbing, roofing, flooring, carpentry, masonry and heating and air conditioning. However, volunteers are not required to have construction experience.
 - Cash donations are needed to purchase materials that are not donated and to pay for third-party labor that cannot be acquired through volunteers. The out-of-pocket cost of building materials to make repairs is approximately \$2,000 per home.
 - In-kind donations of new or gently-used materials, equipment, food, and safety items are needed for the home repairs. Donated equipment can include nails, paint, power tools, ladders, water, fruit, first-aid supplies, safety gloves, etc.



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HOW TO VOLUNTEER

Volunteers must be at least 13 years old to participate in a one-day blitz or a summer week-long session. The age limitation is waived when a parent, youth minister, or older sibling accompanies the youth.

No construction experience is required.

Volunteer Registration Forms, and Background Check Forms for adults attending overnight sessions, are available online at www.HomeWorksofAmerica.org.

The fee is \$25 per individual for a one-day session and \$200 for a summer week-long session to cover program costs. Receipt of both documents and fee reserves a spot for the session.

Tools and equipment are provided, but volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves and paintbrushes of their own.

To ensure a safe and productive environment, the ratio is one adult per three middle-school-aged youth and one adult per five high-school-aged youth.

It is important to wear appropriate work clothes such as t-shirts, shorts and tennis shoes.

Many opportunities to volunteer besides construction are available such as creating presentations for Home Works, organizing fundraisers or being a volunteer coordinator. The Volunteer Sign Up Form, available on www.HomeWorksofAmerica.org, lists other ways to become involved with Home Works.

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