

**DREAM HOME**

Dec. 8, 2008

# Building a caring community

Last week, I was reminded of how people really come together when a project is meaningful.

I spent Thursday evening celebrating volunteers and donors to Project Build, an innovative fundraising project for the Central Okanagan Foundation. This unique venture started with Derek Trethewey's donation of a lot in The Lakes development, and \$135,000 of seed funding to get us started.

Soon we had Rob Anderson, our volunteer project manager, and a team out there asking for people to step up and help out. Our rationale was that the community has been good to the building industry, so maybe they'd like the chance to create some good for the community?

Was that ever an understatement. Standing in that beautiful finished house, looking at the gleaming granite countertops and stainless appliances in the gourmet kitchen, walking across the gorgeous maple hardwood floors to admire the hand-done stonework and the high-efficiency fireplace with a flat-screen TV mounted above the mantle, I was overwhelmed by people's generosity. I don't know if it is possible to convey my sense of wonder.

As I shook hands with Barry from Starline Windows who supplied all the windows free of charge, and Dale of D.K.T Painting, who didn't just send his crew but also came and put in his own sweat equity, I realized that I have never met a more giving group of people.

The number of people I'd like to thank far exceeds the room I have here. What stood out most for me was that every person I met thanked us for the chance to be involved in such a worthwhile project. Many of these people had never heard of the Central Okanagan Foundation before, and explaining how we provide funding to countless not-for-profit groups doing work in fields as diverse as health and community service, children, youth and families, arts and culture and the environment.

When the proceeds from this home continue to support great charitable work throughout the community year after year, I hope each and every person connected to Project Build will feel a well-deserved sense of pride.

***Leanne Hammond Komori,  
Executive Director,  
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