

### **What influenced you to pursue a profession within the building industry?**

The opportunity to make lifelong dreams come true was the biggest influence on my decision to pursue a career in the building industry. When I first started in the building industry, I worked on the lending side. I had the distinct pleasure of sharing the joy first-time buyers experienced when purchasing their home, with the added bonus of knowing that I played a role in helping them achieve that joy.

As my career progressed, I developed two important goals. First, I wanted to play an even bigger role in helping people achieve the American Dream of home ownership. Second, my innate curiosity pulled me toward learning about the home-building process itself, from ground breaking to hand shaking over a finalized contract.

Over the last 16 years, I've built incredible relationships with my builder and vendor partners. They've all taught me something unique, useful, and undeniably life changing throughout those years. Perhaps most importantly, the building industry has helped me find my purpose—giving accomplished women an opportunity to have a real, tangible impact on the lives of the less fortunate.

At the end of the day, home building is dream building. That makes every day I spend in the building industry a dream.

### **What is your proudest accomplishment to this day?**

My proudest personal accomplishment is my two daughters. Watching them grow into strong, thoughtful, independent women has made my husband and me proud. They're the light of my life and the reason I wake up every single day.

Being involved in HomeAid Houston and Austin is my proudest professional accomplishment. HomeAid partners with local nonprofit agencies to help those in need, particularly the homeless. The builders who participate use their skills, insights, buying power, and more to build proper housing for the agencies' specific missions.

Once I learned about HomeAid and their mission to bring builders together to support the most vulnerable of our society, I knew I'd found my professional calling.

I started by co-chairing and growing the HomeAid Amazing Ladies Organization (HALO) luncheon. From HALO's humble beginnings around that homeless-care kitchen in 2008, I've been honored to grow the HALO luncheon to nearly 500 attendees a year. I've helped recruit builders to the organization. Since its inception, the HALO luncheon has raised \$597,001 to help the homeless—especially single women and children—find comfort and care in their time of greatest need.

There's nothing more heartbreaking than a homeless child. Childhood should be about curious wonderment, not constantly wondering where you'll go or how you'll survive the night. Through

HomeAid, we turn the horrors of homelessness into the hope you can only find in a home, surrounded by those who love and support you no matter what. HomeAid is more than just an event: It's a state of mind, a journey into your heart, and an opportunity to share stories and love for those less fortunate.

Further, when Hurricane Harvey destroyed much of Houston and the coastal regions of Texas, it impacted the less fortunate most, due to lack of insurance and funds. HomeAid Houston created an effort called BuildAid, whose mission was to fix unlivable homes. I worked with BuildAid, getting vendors and builders to donate time and materials to help these people. In the end, BuildAid fixed 155 homes.

Finally, I chaired the 2018 and 2019 HomeAid Austin annual luncheons. They were huge successes, and together, these events raised over \$335,000. I used my experience in Houston to bring about the success of these events.

**What do you hope to take away from the Sunbelt Builders Show™ and the Excellence under 45 Awards Program?**

This year, I hope to take away an immense pride in everything the Sunbelt Builders Show allows builders to showcase. I've attended the Sunbelt Builders Show for 16 straight years. It's been incredibly important for me to see the state come together to make the building industry the best industry it can be. Every year, I've been impressed by and proud of our industry for constantly striving to improve our processes, designs, and customer experience.

Being nominated for the Excellence under 45 Awards Program gives me a unique opportunity to give a voice to the great work HomeAid has done for homeless Texans statewide. Though we've expanded our reach over the last 13 years, there are still many people in the building industry who don't know about HomeAid.

Winning this award would vastly expand awareness of HomeAid. The mission of HomeAid is bigger than me—it has a unique way of helping the most vulnerable. I want to do everything I can to bring this mission to every builder in Texas.