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THE BULLETIN | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2011 | ADVERTISING SECTION F

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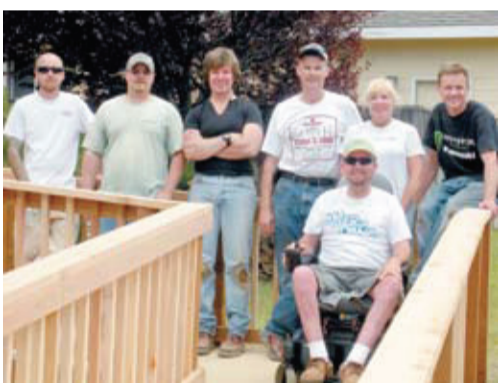
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by Susan Springer, for The Bulletin Advertising Department

When contractor Mike Davis realized there were Central Oregon families who needed wheelchair ramps for their homes but couldn't afford them, he started the annual Remodelers Ramp-a-thon in 2009. In its first two years, Davis and his fellow Central Oregon Builders Association (COBA) contractors volunteered their time to build 17 ramps with donated materials. Now those homes are accessible for people who use a wheelchair.



Mike Davis (third from right) stands with team members after completing a ramp for Michael Rebeck (front) during the 2009 Remodelers Ramp-a-thon. Photo courtesy of TMT Home Remodelers

That's the kind of initiative which brought Davis, who owns TMT Home Remodelers in Redmond, to mind when his colleagues voted for the COBA 2010 Builder of the Year, which was presented during the annual COBA Excellence Awards on Jan. 20.

The award serves as recognition of achievement in three categories: participation within COBA, such as committee work and board appointments; supporting the building industry; and civic and charity work. This fusion of talents earned Davis the award.

"Mike is one of those people who has been able to juggle all three, and that's a lot," said Tim Knopp, COBA Executive Vice President. "He's really given back to the community."

Davis is active on the local, state and national levels of the home building industry. He served as COBA President last year and as vice president the prior year.

In 2007 and 2009, Davis earned COBA's Remodeler of the Year award. In 2008, he won COBA's Green Remodeler of the Year award.

He is a proponent of continuing education and has taught classes to fellow contractors. For example, he took courses to be a certified teacher on the EPA's lead-safe work practices and has educated an estimated 150 contractors about the new rules.

Davis has held positions in the Oregon Home Builders Association and the National Association of Home Builders — traveling frequently — while maintaining the success of TMT Home Remodelers.

Davis said he's able to take on numerous volunteer activities while running TMT Home Remodelers thanks to top-quality people who support him at all levels — at the home builder associations, at his business and at home. Also, he says, it takes a "just do it" attitude.

"We all have 24 hours in a day," said Davis. "It's not hard if you make up your mind to do it."

Gretchen Palmer, COBA Director of Councils

Central Oregon Builders Association's 2010

Builder of the Year

Mike Davis is honored with COBA's top annual award.



"He's definitely on the cutting edge. He's always looking for ways to do better."

Photo by Nicole Werner / The Bulletin Advertising Department

Mike Davis, winner of the 2010 COBA Builder of the Year award, is the owner of TMT Home Remodelers located in Redmond.

and Education, introduced Davis at national meetings and was impressed with his desire to get involved.

"To me, it's his enthusiasm and willingness to see where he could add his own voice to solve a problem or join an already vibrant group," said Palmer.

She said that COBA has benefitted from Davis' involvement at the national level because he brings back new energy and ideas. Davis has helped strengthen the abilities of his colleagues by spearheading classes and bringing in speakers on topics such as green building, marketing for remodelers, and how to read a financial statement.

Another colleague agrees that Davis' emphasis on continuing education is one of the ways he stands out.

"He's definitely on the cutting edge," said Kathy Temple of Bend Oil Company. "He's always looking for ways to do better."

"Good people are drawn to him so he can work with the best of the best. He is a true leader."

Davis said the rewards of his involvement are many, but one of the best is the friendships he has developed.

"I've got friends all over the U. S. because of the work I've done at the national level," said Davis.

Davis encourages his colleagues to invest in the building industry when the time is right for them. He points out he was able to get more involved after his sons grew up. He has actively recruited new members and is 10th on the all-time COBA recruitment list, having brought in 108 members.

Davis spent countless volunteer hours during a tough year for construction. His motivation comes from remembering that he was able to start his own business about two decades ago when his peers gave their time and energy to make the building industry strong. This year, he's looking forward to continuing his involvement in home builder associations.

"Mike is just an inspirational guy to begin with," said Knopp. "The Builder of the Year award is inspiring too. I think what the award says is that there are others in the industry who are willing to put in hours to keep their industry strong."



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