

**Schroeder Project
Home Builders Foundation
January 22, 2010**

**Friends and Family Connections of the Home Builders Foundation
Come Together to Help Make Bill and Jackie Schroeder's Home More Accessible**

After an ATV accident left Bill Schroeder paralyzed and restricted to a wheelchair, his nephew Dan Merciez called the Home Builders Foundation (HBF) and asked for help to make the home for Bill and his wife, Jackie, more accessible.

Merciez who is sales manager at Boise Cascade asked James Mason of Remington Homes if they could participate in the renovation. The answer was a resounding "yes." Interestingly, Mason's wife is sister to Schroeder's mother-in-law, so a family connection already existed. And Merciez' boss, Cindy Hart, serves on the board for the Home Builders Foundation, so Dan was intimately familiar with the possibilities. Meanwhile, Mason's son, Chris, who works as a foreman for Saddleback Design heard about the request and he volunteered to install the hardwoods and tiles on the project. Incidentally, Saddleback Design owner Luke Waugh also serves on the Foundation board as president-elect.

Merciez acted as the project coordinator and after enlisting Remington Homes, Mason asked for volunteers from their sub-contractors to help. More than 20 contractors ended up donating their time over a span of two months. Merciez also led the project through planning, construction and permitting.

"The sub contractors were the best," Mason says. "They really stepped up to the plate in these hard times for our industry."

Mason explained how the crew installed a ramp and rails leading up to the front door of the Schroeder's home in Arvada. Then they modified interior stairs to allow more wheelchair room; and converted a powder room, laundry room and pantry into a large main floor bathroom with a roll-in shower. They also converted a family den into a main floor master suite. A new fireplace was added along with a new 10' x 16' deck off the master which Bill can easily access. The crew also installed a ramp leading into the garage.

The retail cost of the project is estimated at \$25,000 with 90 percent of the materials and labor donated.

Jackie Schroeder said, "The process was very easy. Everyone who worked on our home was thoughtful, caring, concerned and willing to help. They were amazing to us. We're now utilizing every square inch of new space and the renovation has made it a lot easier to get around. We're very thankful to have it."



Cindy Hoover, executive director of HBF, said, “The Foundation brings together members of the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver and pairs their home building and construction skills and resources with families in need of home renovations. This partnership is a great way for the home building industry to give back to the Denver metro community by doing what they do best, build homes, and in turn, restore dignity and mobility to individuals in need.”

Hoover said the Foundation relies on funding, materials and labor to meet the increasing demand it receives from individuals and families with physical challenges.

In 2009, the Foundation’s volunteers completed 18 projects, with an estimated retail value of \$252,000. Projects included everything from building a wheelchair ramp to remodeling a kitchen or bathroom to accommodate accessibility needs. The Home Builders Association of Metro Denver founded the HBF as their charitable arm in 1993.

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