

## CHESMAR HOMES AND LAND TEJAS BREAK GROUND ON 2009 BENEFIT HOME

With a bold 4 x 8 foot donated sign as the backdrop, representatives from Chesmar Homes, Land Tejas Companies and the Greater Houston Builders Association broke ground in early February 2009 to begin construction on one of two homes being built for the GHBA Benefit Homes Project. Chesmar Homes is donating the construction management of the home and Land Tejas donated the homesite in the new “hybrid” community of Discovery at Spring Trails. The home will be constructed with donated materials, services and labor by GHBA members. Hardman Signs donated the production and installation of the 8 foot sign that designates the site as a Benefit Home location. The three beneficiaries of the Project are Texas Children’s Cancer Center, the Alzheimer’s Association and HomeAid Houston.

The ceremony began with coffee and danish in the Discovery Center at Spring Trails. Chesmar and Land Tejas staff, members of the GHBA, the three charities and guests participated in the ground breaking sharing a dozen gold shovels.

On-hand for the ceremony were: Don Klein, president of Chesmar Homes and the chairman of the Benefit Homes Project; Raymond Willburn, Chesmar Homes; Al Brende, partner Land Tejas Companies; Patrick Bullard, president of Land Tejas Companies; Lisa Clark, president of the GHBA, Mike Dishberger, GHBA Board official, Richard Elbein, CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association; Bette Moser, executive director of HomeAid; Chris Denison, HomeAid board member; and Dr. Ernest Fruge, Texas Children’s Cancer Center.

A new Benefit Homes record was set prior to the ground breaking. The Chesmar Benefit Home for 2009 has been purchased even before construction has begun. Grady and Jenny Hill who purchased the home, were on-hand for the ceremony. Chesmar is building their Venetian Plan in Discovery at Spring Trails.

Chesmar’s Venetian is a 2692 sq. ft one story design that includes 4 bedrooms with a study/den option, 3 full baths, a dramatic oval foyer, a formal dining room, large family room and an open style kitchen with a breakfast room. The master bedroom includes his

and her closets. The utility room is designed with convenient freezer space. This home also features rounded sheetrock corners, crown molding, granite in the kitchen and will include upgrade appliances. The home offers a 3-car garage and an oversized rear patio.

“The ground breaking was made even more special with the new homebuyers able to participate,” said Lisa Clark, president of the GHBA. “Grady and Jenny Hill will get to watch this Benefit Home being built by dozens of generous vendors. They will share in the excitement of knowing three important charities will benefit from their purchase. You couldn’t ask for a better ground breaking ceremony.”

Discover at Spring Trails is marketed as a "hybrid" community, meaning it will be powered by a combination of solar and conventionally generated electricity.

The 1,150-acre community is located in North Houston, near the Hardy Toll Road and Rayford Road. It will include rooftop solar panels and solar trellises, a community "solar farm" and wall-mounted dashboards that show homeowners how much energy, water and carbon emissions are being saved in real time. The home builders are also incorporating GE's ecomagination Homebuilder Program.

A one-kilowatt solar panel will be included as a standard feature on each new home -- enough to provide 15 percent to 20 percent of the electricity use of a typical home -- and home buyers will have the option of expanding the kilowatt level of the panels. At the three kilowatts, a home could potentially have zero emissions from electricity.

Covering approximately 100 square feet, the one-kilowatt solar panels may be installed on rooftops or as "solar trellises" which may be incorporated into landscaping.

In addition to the Discovery Center at Spring Trails, other amenities will include a guard gated entrance, pools, splash pad, a clubhouse with a playground, lakes, fountains, parks, and trails.

Each year two homes are constructed with donated materials, labor and services for the Benefit Homes Project. These homes feature upgrades and amenities not always found in other homes with similar pricing. The homes are sold at market value and the majority of

the proceeds benefit the charities. Since the Project began 29 years ago, \$5 million has been raised. For more information on the Benefit Homes Project visit [www.ghba.org](http://www.ghba.org) or call 281-970-8970.