

The Industrial Projects **REPORT**

The Magazine Construction Workers Trust

Volume 17 / Issue 9

September 2009



**Introducing
Young Women to
Construction Crafts**

The Nation's #1 Construction Trade

HOTSHEET

www.jobhotsheets.com

MENTORING A Girl in Construction

*by De'Ann Gill, Industrial Relations Manager, Becon Construction Company, Inc.
MAGIC Summer Camp 2009 Director/Mentor*

With Houston-area temperatures topping 100 degrees, many teenage girls might spend their days sleeping in or relaxing at the pool, but not Myesha Franklin.

Determined to attend the area's first-ever MAGIC (Mentoring a Girl in Construction) summer camp, Myesha, a recent Alief Elsik High School graduate, rose at 4:30 a.m. each day, taking three buses from her home in southwest Houston across town, and often returning home at dusk, to attend this week-long summer camp devoted to introducing young women to career and educational opportunities in the construction industry.

The Houston chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) sponsored MAGIC Summer Camp 2009 at the Galena Park Career and Technical Agriculture (AG) Center June 15-18. This event happened through an industry partnership with Galena Park ISD, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Houston, ABC's Construction Careers Youth Committee (CCYC), the Construction Education and Maintenance Foundation (CMEF) Houston, and numerous area contractors, owners and suppliers.

MAGIC Summer Camp embraces many of NAWIC's core objectives, such as promoting construction and technical education, and encouraging women to pursue and establish careers in the industry. All the event's partner organizations are dedicated to diversity and enhancing the success of others through outreach efforts that work two-fold. By being involved, all partners continue to develop initiatives that strengthen the construction workforce, and encourage industry professionals to give back to their communities, their country through volunteering and mentoring the future of our industry.

The event schedule was fast-paced, and designed to help the high school junior and senior girls gain hands-on experience in construction. With industry support, many in the camp now seriously consider opportunities that had never been presented to them. Prior to the camp, most of the girls were not aware of the income potential, the types of careers available or the number of people who are eager to help them succeed in the construction industry.

"There are many young women that are not aware of the vast amount of careers that are in the construction field," said MAGIC Summer Camp Instructor/Mentor Anna Diaz of LyondellBasell. **"We have a responsibility to pave the way and help open doors."**

The students learned about safety training, including crane safety using simulated exercises on Zachry's training simulator. They also tried their hands at pipefitting with the Ref-Chem team, where they measured and fitted PVC pipe and fittings to construct marshmallow guns. Also on the schedule were electrical exercises, tool identification competitions with the ladies from Becon, and a race to the finish with the "get your gear on" competition with the Fluor team cheering and coaching them all the way!

"I saw these young women truly transform their self-confidence in a four-day time period," said Jack Gorton of Ref-Chem, L.P. and MAGIC Summer Camp Instructor/Mentor.

Despite running a full gamut on construction basics, the girls truly enjoyed a special carpentry project – building dog houses to donate to three area rescue services. With lumber and pre-cut materials donated by the Marek Family of Companies, the campers safely and passionately completed their creations, and even assisted some of the volunteers in constructing extra dog houses to donate.

Basset Buddies Rescue of Texas, Beagle and Hound Rescue, and the newly opened Dakota Rescue were all recipients of these newly constructed dog houses. **"These girls should be "proud of themselves" for giving such a wonderful gift to the community"** said MAGIC Summer Camp Volunteer/Mentor Leona Williams of Fluor.

As for Myesha Franklin? Her previous welding training in high school and her ongoing dedication already is paying off. She was one of three girls awarded a scholarship to the Zachry Welding Academy program. **"I loved learning about safety, meeting new people, building a dog house, and just becoming more informed about opportunities for women in construction"** she said.

The volunteers and sponsors look forward to seeing these campers succeed in their industry of choice, but are convinced that their camp experience will directly influence their career decisions toward construction. Volunteers were so inspired by the girls that future plans are

MAGIC Summer Camp 2009

already underway. Diaz, who is nearing retirement, considers the experience rejuvenating.

“These young ladies are amazing and through helping them I have in turn learned so much,” Diaz said. **“MAGIC Camp was the ‘icing on the cake’ for me.”**

For more information on how you can get involved in NAWIC or MAGIC Summer Camp, please contact De’Ann at dgill@bechtel.com. Or visit www.nawic.org or www.mentoringagirlinconstruction.com

To assist the animal rescue services helped by the MAGIC campers, visit www.basset-buddies-rescue.org, www.dakota.org or www.houstonbeaglerescue.org.

MAGIC Camp Sponsors

Gold Level

- LMI Painting LLC
- S&B Engineers & Constructors Ltd.
- Zachry Holdings, Inc.

Silver Level

- Jacobs

Hard Hat Level

- Fisk Electrical
- Head Paint & Wallcovering Inc.
- IBS-Fieldlink
- Kilgore Industries, LP
- Pieper Houston Electric LP

Hammer Level

- Bob and Lisa Hall
- Ref-Chem
- Seeberger and Associates LP

Food & Beverage Sponsors

- Camden Builders
- CB&I
- Deer Park ISD
- ISC
- Tomboy Tools
- NAWIC

Time and Treasure Sponsors

- Acton Mobile,
- Austin Industrial
- Bechtel Equipment
- Becon Construction Company Inc.
- Benchmark Houston Builders, LP

Time and Treasure Sponsors

- Cadence McShane Construction
- CLP
- Construction & Associates
- DE Harvey Builders
- Fast Signs
- Energy Waterproofing and Roofing Systems, Inc.
- Fluor
- Gilbane
- Gurrola ReproGraphics, Inc.
- HNTB
- Industrial Air Tool
- Johns Mansville
- Lyondellbasell
- Marek Family of Companies
- National Terrazzo Tile
- Med Safe
- RSC Equipment
- RLI Surety
- Petro-Chem Refrigeration
- RC Signs
- Sunbelt Rentals
- Texas A&M University Student Chapter

