AGC in the Community is an initiative of AGC Charities, Inc., designed to showcase the community service projects of AGC of America’s chapters and member firms. The awards recognize service projects that epitomize the essence of charitable giving, through actual hands-on service and donations to charitable organizations.
MEMBER

BARTON MALOW BOOT CAMP

Barton Malow Company  
*Detroit, Mich., and Fayetteville, N.C.*

This six-week paid work experience program trains local residents with the industry fundamentals required to enter a career in the skilled trades. The program includes training and mentorship, providing participants with real world experience in the field with Barton Malow trades journey people, as well as classroom training covering everything from labor management to real estate development. The result of a team of three full-time Barton Malow staff members working to support the company’s commitment to addressing the construction industry labor shortage, this program brings together Barton Malow clients, local government, trade unions, and professional development partners. The program has enhanced collaboration with local organizations, such as with the City of Detroit’s Workforce Development Department, with which Barton Malow partners to recruit students aged 18-24 to the Boot Camp. During the program, administrators continuously evaluate participants on aptitude, attitude, timeliness, and teamwork ability, resulting in opportunities for local job seekers while building the industry a new and diverse field of skilled trade workers. In 2018, Barton Malow employed 42 Boot Camp participants on its projects nationwide.
During four days of their Thanksgiving holiday break, 48 members of the Iowa State University AGC Student Chapter rebuilt homes destroyed by a forest fire in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. In collaboration with Appalachia Service Project, the team worked a total of 1,890 hours to completely dry-in a new house, frame the interior walls, build two porches, and install new drainage tile. They also built a forty-foot-long wraparound deck, installed appliances and cabinetry, and graded the yard for another house. All of the student volunteers were able to travel to the site at no cost to them thanks to the generous donations of general contractors that recruit from Iowa State. On-site, the jobs were led, planned and coordinated entirely by student members. By assigning a superintendent and foreman to each of three teams, the project also served as an opportunity for younger members to learn. Each of the volunteers worked toward helping to rebuild the lives of people who suffered the impact of a disaster, which is part of the Chapter’s mission and basis for service projects dating back to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in 2006.
As part of an initiative of the 2019 GCA board president Layne Machida, this program donates member time, materials and labor to complete small construction projects for Hawaii-based non-profit groups. The projects supported by this program help the community but lack complete funding, such as “The Gathering Place,” a unique space for students to relax and socialize. After local high school students developed a concept and design, and even received state funding, the project still required a contractor. Similarly, a new concrete “Marina Breezeway” at the Marine Corps Community Services’ Marina at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay replaced the old gravel pathway, offering visitors safe and simple access to the facility. Without help from the GCA Gives Back program, these projects were at risk of being canceled due to lack of funding, but GCA member companies volunteered and organized to get the job done for members of their community.
SPECIAL RECOGNITION - CHAPTER

TOLEDO CHAPTER HISTORIC SOUTH END REVITALIZATION

Ohio Contractors Association

Toledo, Ohio

Sixteen member companies and dozens of individuals volunteered time and materials to revitalize the streets and sidewalks of the Old South End in Toledo. While some of the homes in this neighborhood had been restored through a grant, the project was incomplete due to the crumbling streets and sidewalks. The chapter led a team of volunteers to install new sidewalks on multiple blocks along Crittenden and Western Avenues, and resurface Crittenden Avenue. The project was completed in partnership with the Historic South Initiative and the City of Toledo, and offered a unique way to give back to the community while contributing to a comprehensive approach to inner-city neighborhood revitalization.
More than 18 AGC of Western Kentucky member companies volunteered their services to work with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a single mother of two children. The chapter helped identify a volunteer construction superintendent to lead the project, and other members provided the expertise, equipment and materials to complete it. Regional technical school students also supported the project by participating and, as a result, acquiring hands-on experience through the construction process. The students learned about site layout, foundation, framing, and roofing, as well as wiring. The house was completed in July 2019, giving the family a home of their own, and allowing them to move from an unsafe and unhealthy rental property.
BSCI 4360 - SERVICE LEARNING CLASS
McWhorter School of Building Science, Auburn University
Auburn, Opelika, Tuskegee, Lee County & Macon County, Ala.

The McWhorter School of Building Science Construction Field Lab offers a senior level elective course that challenges students to support a full-size construction project for a non-profit. Since the autumn of 2018, 180 students have volunteered more than 1,200 hours of service on 18 construction projects. The students offer cost estimating, scheduling, site safety planning, hands-on construction, client relations, and project assessment for the community projects. Past efforts have included veterans housing, renovations to Haddie’s Home for Girls, a new pedestrian bridge at the AU Arboretum, and Habitat House construction. The Field Lab is part of a service learning philanthropic gift from Jim and Alison Gorrie, intended to help students find opportunities to participate in local service projects, and the updated curriculum now requires one such course.
In just eight days, the Wadman Corporation construction team completed two homes for two different families in the Ogden area as part of the television program Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. As general contractor, Wadman worked with 84 trade partners, which provided materials and manpower to help the project succeed. The scope of work covered renovation new construction, and landscaping, with the help of 2,100 volunteers. In addition to new homes for two deserving families, the project added an unexpected benefit to the city of Ogden, since the HGTV crew spent a total of 1,426 nights in local hotel, contributing $936,908 to the local economy.
KLB Construction volunteered to help develop this project from beginning to end, first in securing permitting, then assisting with design reviews, and means and methods. They devoted more than 1,500 man hours over four years to build 10 new homes for families in need in King County, with work ranging from site preparation and building stormwater treatment systems, to wall construction and lot grading. In all, KLB donated more than $300,000 in labor and equipment, and an additional $122,500 in cash donations. More than two dozen KLB employees volunteered their time to help complete this development project in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity.
As the first Ronald McDonald House in the country, this facility has served for 45 years as a space for severely ill children to receive treatment with the comfort of their families nearby, and spawned the development of hundreds more across the country. The Philadelphia house desperately needed additional bedrooms, as it had space to support only one in five families in need. When they set out to add a 93,000 square foot tower to include 88 new bedroom spaces, P. Agnes, as construction manager, donated over one hundred hours of free or discounted preconstruction services and worked to galvanize the local construction industry into donating hundreds of thousands of dollars in labor and materials. The completed project will allow Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House to serve an additional 1,110 families, increasing available room nights to 40,150 from 16,425.
In addition to presenting the AGC in the Community Awards, AGC Charities promotes and supports the national charitable initiative Operation Opening Doors, a program that provides renovation services for organizations and families in need. To find out how you can support AGC Charities or to learn more about the organization, please visit www.agccharities.org.

Apply for the 2021 Annual AGC in the Community Awards. Contact Nahee Rosso at 703-837-5348 or rosson@agc.org. Awards will be presented at AGC’s Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida.