

Under the hammer for kids



Project manager Shannon Moyle and builder Mark Yalden on site at the Tauranga Registered Master Builders Charity House Auction Building Project with Dan Allen-Gordon from Kiwi Can Bay of Plenty.

Bay of Plenty youngsters are set to benefit from this year's Tauranga Registered Master Builders Charity House Auction Building Project.

Master builders are donating their own and their staff's time to build a three bedroom house in the Baypark Stadium carpark. The house will go to auction on September 28, during the @ home Furniture and Bathroom Kitchen Expo.

Tauranga Registered Master Builders Association manager Lani Christensen says money raised from the auction will be split between two charities - Kiwi Can Bay of Plenty Charitable Trust and Make-A-Wish New Zealand.

"We are thrilled to be raising much needed funds for both Make a Wish and Kiwi Can Children," says Lani.

Kiwi Can Bay of Plenty runs a values based educational programme in seven Western Bay schools. Dan Allen-Gordon from Kiwi Can Bay of Plenty says each week some 2500 children benefit from the programme, which aims to raise self-esteem, encourage respect of others and teach a 'can-do' attitude.

Dan says schools where Kiwi Can lessons are held soon notice a difference in their students.

"Learning is better because they are happier and more respectful to each other and to the school community. That flows on into the community and

it means the teachers can get on and teach. It's saving kids and families a lot of grief by stopping them making bad choices as they get older and giving them life skills.

"We are very fortunate to have master builders do this for us. It will help us deliver our programmes next year."

The Kiwi Can programme costs around \$100 per child per year to run and all this money must be raised by the trust.

Make a Wish New Zealand grants wishes to children aged three to 17 who have life-threatening illnesses as a way of bringing joy, hope and magic into their lives. Fundraising manager Laura Harrison says all funds received by the organisation will be used to fund wishes in the Bay of Plenty region.

"The charity build will not only raise essential funds to help grant cherished wishes but also increase the foundation's profile in the region. The generosity and support of everyone involved is truly outstanding," says Laura.

Construction of the house commenced on August 27 and will be completed by September 15. It will be open to the public from September 20 from 1-4pm daily until the start of the expo on September 26, when it will be open from 10am-5pm each day. The auction takes place at 2pm on September 28.

For further information on the building project and auction, visit www.tauranga.co.nz