

## FACES IN THE CROWD

# Prosperous homebuilder gives back, aids orphans

By **Chris Marshall**

Matt Powers, co-owner of Matt Powers Custom Homes and Renovations, has a great deal to celebrate this year, as his company recently won 11 prestigious industry awards from the Texas Association of Builders, and his influence is being felt all over the world.

Powers, a Houston native, earned his MBA from Baylor and went into the home building business shortly after graduation, working at a number of different production companies to learn more about the industry before venturing out on his own in 2002.

A decade later, Powers is still excited about the work he does, viewing his profession as a way to express himself creatively while helping others at the same time.

**ABOUT MATT POWERS****AGE:** 45**OCCUPATION:** Owner of Matt Powers Custom Homes and Renovations**COMMUNITY****CONNECTION:** Woodlands resident since 1999**FAST FACT:** Won "TAB Star Award" for Best Print Ad and Best Custom Master Bathroom over \$2 million

"I love the tangibility of it, the creativity," Powers said. "Every job you have, the layers are different.

We're able to take a raw piece of land and visualize what it'll be, and then we make that happen."

A Woodlands resident since 1999, Powers does more than just build homes. He also gives back to the community he loves in a

number of different ways.

"I try to stay active in the community," Powers said. "I've seen The Woodlands really grow up as a Houston native, to now seeing it as an extension of Houston. I just love it out here."

Powers is also involved in a cause that stretches far beyond The Woodlands, however. He is currently helping raise funds to build an orphanage house in the troubled African nation of Zambia, a cause he became involved with through a friend who grew up in that country.

"Zambia has the highest per capita number of orphans in the world," Powers said. "They're just devastated by the HIV and AIDS epidemic. Half of them are under 16, and half of them are orphans. We're building a house over there this summer."



Courtesy of LJF Marketing

**Matt Powers had a banner year both in his work and community projects.**

Powers is working in conjunction with a company called Family Legacy to bring the orphanage to fruition, and several families in the area will be making the trip to Africa next summer to help with

its construction.

"We all get caught up in our day-to-day lives, but you see something like that and how you can have a direct impact on 12 kids' lives," Powers said. "It's pretty amazing. It has

nothing to do with home building, but on a personal note, it's very, very important to me."

*Chris Marshall is a freelance writer. He can be reached at [neighborhoods@chron.com](mailto:neighborhoods@chron.com).*

## VOLUNTEERING

By **Volunteer Houston**

Here are the latest local volunteer opportunities through Volunteer Houston, a nonprofit group that helps match volunteers and organizations throughout the area.

**Help care for terminally ill with hospice**

Care for the dying is provided by dedicated volunteers in a Conroe-based hospice program serving all of greater Houston. Working under the guidance of medical and social work staff, these volunteers serve

as friends and helpers to terminally ill persons during the final stages of illness and counsel with family members during the bereavement process. Call now to register for an upcoming orientation session.

**Business experts sought to advise local nonprofits**

Executives are wanted by an association that provides business consulting services for nonprofit organizations throughout greater Houston. These volunteers lend their know-how to enable the organizations

to solve problems and improve services. If you are an active or retired executive with expertise in any of the key areas essential to running a business, consider committing a few hours a month to these efforts.

**Spend some time with seniors in assisted living**

Make new friends by visiting residents of an assisted living facility that opened in The Woodlands earlier this year. Stopping in for an hour or two on any day of the week, you can visit on a one-to-one basis with residents who

will benefit a great deal from the stimulation and companionship you provide. You can also get involved in recreational activities with small groups of residents. Adults and teens are cordially invited to come by.

**Help homebound with errands, appointments**

Independent living goes a little more smoothly for the homebound elderly in Montgomery County thanks to volunteers with a church-backed nonprofit in The Woodlands. As needed, these volunteers take the

**How to help**

Volunteer Houston features a variety of local volunteer opportunities in the community. For more information, call 713-965-0031 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.  
**Additional opportunities:**  
[www.volunteerhouston.org](http://www.volunteerhouston.org)

seniors to medical appointments and grocery stores. If you have a good driving record, consider using your car or van to help one or more of these folks run essential errands. The most pressing need is for volunteers willing to help out on occasional weekdays.

## ABOUT US

**ULTIMATE WOODLANDS**

P.O. Box 4260, Suite 445  
Houston, TX 77210  
Telephone: 713-362-7932  
[neighborhoods@chron.com](mailto:neighborhoods@chron.com)  
Fax: 713-362-7552

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS MANAGER**

Howard Decker  
713-362-7932  
[howard.decker@chron.com](mailto:howard.decker@chron.com)

**ADVERTISING MANAGER**

Jeff Pollard  
713-362-4413  
[jeff.pollard@chron.com](mailto:jeff.pollard@chron.com)

**CIRCULATION**

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