

## Northern Colorado Custom Home Builder Lends a Helping Hand

Serving others is a rewarding experience and a great way to "give back" to the community that has been good for our businesses. As we know, there are individuals and families in our community who have a need for contracting services, but due to financial hardships brought on by an illness or injury, they can't afford to pay for the projects they need. Perhaps the project is a much needed space for a sick child, or a handicapped accessible area, or even a home re-fitting for a wounded veteran. There are needs in our community for projects such as these, and I encourage all of you to volunteer your time, talents, and services.

Recently, I had the opportunity to volunteer with some of my peers, employees, subcontractors, and suppliers to finish a basement for a family and their ten year old son named Billy. This family has endured many hardships - among them, a job loss, an accident, loss of insurance, and a fierce battle with leukemia. It was an honor to be involved in this project. Each and every one of us enjoyed being a part of it. We felt fortunate to have met this amazing and strong family and have come away with a great sense of accomplishment. If you would like to know more about Billy's story, pick up the **Style Medical and Wellness Directory, Volume XII**, and then turn to page eighty-two.



Colorado Photography by Warren Diggles, [www.warrendiggles.com](http://www.warrendiggles.com)

With Basements 4 You, Billy's dream of having his own room came true.

I encourage you to work daily to build a successful business, but remember to make time to be of service to others. The rewards of doing so may not be financial in nature, but are great on so many other levels. Those in need are all around us and are not difficult to find if we keep our eyes open and act on opportunities to assist when they come our way.

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Harry Poehlmann, President of Poehlmann Construction Company, has been building in Colorado both residentially and commercially for over 30 years and has been building in Northern Colorado for the last ten years. They believe a home should be everything the owner longs for it to be and is an expression of their particular personality and deep desires. Poehlmann's passion lies in creating the unique, high quality home that is as individual as each family.

POEHLMANN  
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY



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## Sustaining Community Craftsmanship

It is that time of year when we look forward to the Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Association's 10th Annual Sustainable Living Fair. One of the nation's foremost educational events of all things sustainable, The National Center for Craftsmanship (<http://www.nccraftsmanship.org/>) will participate for the sixth straight season by presenting our "Sustaining Community Craftsmanship" educational program. Not only will the public be able to learn and participate in live demonstrations and hands-on activities, but hundreds of community youth will have the fairgrounds to themselves for "Future Fridays," an educational experience provided to the local Poudre School District by Fair organizers.

My first year presenting at the Fair led to a profound moment in my feelings about the nature and importance of craftsmanship in our communities. A young woman engaged me in conversation, recalling vividly her relationship with her grandfather, a master cabinet maker. Our discussion ranged from the collection of period tools that she treasures, the variety of materials encountered, and the timeless nature of techniques that represent the foundation and heritage of craftspeople. She spoke with tears of reverence and thanksgiving of childhood memories sitting on his knee in his shop, tracing smiley faces in the sawdust.

As she said goodbye I was awash in the emotions of the conversation. A young man of 18 years stepped in front of me, "I heard what you said about craftsmanship. I think two-thirds of people in this country don't give a 'hoot' about craftsmanship" (OK, he really didn't say "hoot"). "Two-thirds?" I replied. "We are a country of more than 300 million people. By your count over a hundred million people care." As his face turned from serious-

ness to playfulness he said, "I never looked at it that way," thanked me, and returned to the Fair.

For a number of years I was satisfied by the belief that a significant minority of Americans do care about craftsmanship. Then I realized the truth; 'everybody' cares, or at least ninety-nine percent of people do. Whether it's the tool, golf club, or fly rod in your hand, the car you drive, furniture you sit on, or shoes that you wear, everyone has something they care about enough to seek out the "best" and are willing to pay for it. And when everyone cares deeply and values something that represents what we all have in common, we have the power to choose its preservation and practice its sustainability.

NCC and Sutherlands Lumber Co. invite you to visit this year's Sustainable Living Fair on September 18th & 19th, share your stories, and learn more about the spirit of craftsmanship that exists in each of us.

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Or visit:

Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Association  
<http://www.sustainablelivingassociation.org/the/fair/>

