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All in a Day’s Work: Cornerstone Construction Group Completes Restoration of Redondo Beach Landmark with Community Partner Sharefest Inc.

Redondo Beach, May 2010--Cornerstone Construction Group (cornerstonecg.com) has completed a new community project with Sharefest Inc as part of the organization’s ongoing Workdays program. The partners were engaged to complete the restoration of the Morrell House, one of the few remaining links to Redondo Beach’s early days. The comprehensive list of repairs included preparation of exterior and interior walls for plastering and repainting, repairing the front steps and doing spot repairs of areas damaged by wind, sun and water.

A transitional example of Victorian (Queen Anne) and Craftsman architecture, the house was built in 1906 by the Morrell family and was one of the first in the area to have electricity. The family occupied the residence until the 1950s; by 1989, after years of neglect, it was scheduled for demolition.

The Redondo Beach Historical Society spearheaded efforts to save the structure and move it to Heritage Court, a hilltop site in the city’s Dominquez Park designated for historical preservation. From June 1990 through April 2006, volunteers spent thousands of hours restoring the house, according to the Historical Society’s website.

Beginning in 2004, Cornerstone Construction and Sharefest were brought in through the Workday program to organize and focus restoration efforts. During this time, with Cornerstone at the helm, the house received over $800,000 worth of renovations and repairs, including a new foundation, new roof, rebuilt fireplaces, earthquake retrofitting, new plumbing/electrical, and handicap access, along with restoration of architectural details such as original woodwork and windows.

In 2010, Cornerstone’s Vic Braden was again contacted by Sharefest to complete the project and provide the finishing details. Mr. Braden and his staff, along with members of his parish, Kings Harbor Church, dedicated every Saturday for the next two years to perform all interior and exterior finishing work such as repainting and plastering. Their six-year collaboration helped revitalize a historical link to the city’s past that can now be shared and enjoyed by the community through public tours and events.

At the Opening Ceremonies in 2010, Vic Braden and Cornerstone were recognized by Redondo Beach’s mayor, Mike Gin, for their “special commitment to put the project over its final hurdles.” He noted that Braden “managed the considerable efforts of volunteers, contractors and city resources to complete the restoration.” Mr. Braden commented that he was “especially proud of the dedication of my church and staff over the many weekends that brought us all together with a special bond to restore this landmark for the community”

Cornerstone has generously supported the South Bay and Harbor areas of Los Angeles with their consistent involvement in the Workdays Program since 2004. Over the years, Cornerstone Construction Group has actively worked with the local community, donating their time and resources to various causes. Those causes include Sharefest (www.sharefestinc.org) and Cops for Kids (www.operationprogress.org.)