



SACRAMENTO VALLEY ASSOCIATION
OF BUILDING OFFICIALS
1215 K STREET, SUITE 2290
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
P 916.451.9093 | F 916.231.2141
WWW.SVABO.ORG

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MEMBERS OF BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION HELP CONSTRUCT READING AND LEARNING CENTER

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—More than 10 members of the Sacramento Valley Association of Building Officials (SVABO) have volunteered their time and professional skills to help build a computer-equipped reading and learning center at St. John’s Shelter Program for Women and Children in Sacramento. The center will be a resource for adults to job search and for children to study.

SVABO’s Community Outreach Committee Chair Craig Sarmento is always looking for projects within the community for the committee to be a part of. Greg Gonzales, St. John’s board treasurer, is a friend of Sarmento’s and encouraged the committee to help with the reading and learning center project.

Sarmento said he was interested in this project because the shelter is at its capacity and people are being denied services. St. John’s currently shelters 112 women and children, and daily turns away about 350 women and children.

“The reading and learning center was a good opportunity to help the children onsite improve their education,” Sarmento said.

The committee began working on the center on Saturday, July 25, and has continued work in their spare time on the weekends. Members transformed an old portable school building into a state-of-the-art learning center by installing a handicap ramp, a door, wood and carpet

flooring, and an electrical system. Sarmento anticipates that the committee's work will be finished by the end of September.

Community Outreach Committee members who participated in this project include Craig Sarmento, construction specialist for the Beutler Corporation; Scott Byrnes, principal building inspector for the City of Roseville; Todd Cunningham, chief building official for the City of Lincoln; Brian Martin of Martin & Co.; Gene Paolini, building official for the City of Roseville; Michael Rodriguez, building official; Gary Scott, building inspector for the County of Sacramento; Bob Stetson, senior plan review engineer for Interwest Consulting Group; Jeff Wise, building inspector for the City of Roseville; Mark Wood, chief building official for the City of Davis; and Ron Yasui, senior supervising building inspector for the City of Sacramento.

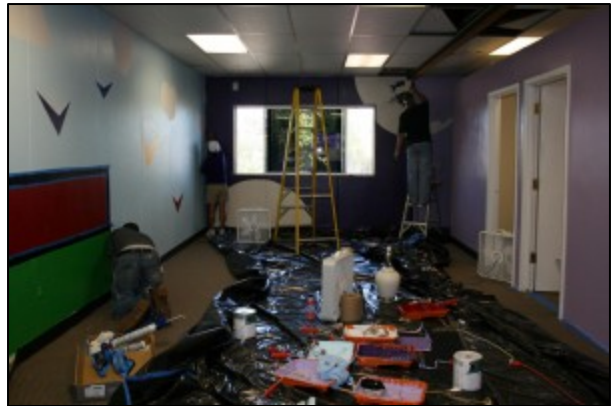


Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Monarchs' Web site.

St. John's won the WNBA's "Court of Dreams" contest by selling 5,145 Sacramento Monarchs tickets in June 2008. St. John's prize for winning the contest was to have the learning center built.

SVABO provides its members, associates and the general public with the latest developments in building safety from local, state, national, and international perspectives. SVABO has more than 190 active members.

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For further information, contact SVABO Executive Director Melissa Dixon: 916-451-9093
Fax: 916-231-2141, e-mail: mdixon@svabo.org