

MUCA Members Donate Services to Twin Cities Hope Lodge Project



Harold Enberg and Dan Miller of Minnesota Utilities & Excavating on the job at Hope Lodge.

Each year, hundreds of patients and their families travel great distances to receive cancer care at the Cancer Center of the University of Minnesota Medical Center. The physical and emotional toll during these times is tremendous, and worries about lodging costs and transportation only add to the burden. That was the impetus for the construction of the Twin Cities Hope Lodge, which will house up to 40 adult cancer patients and their caregivers each night of their stay free of charge.

Given the Minnesota Utility Contractors Association's history of civic involvement, the American Cancer Society asked for the association's help. MUCA

members answering the call to service were Midwest Boring, Ziegler, Northern Water Works Supply, Inc, Yokum Oil, and Minnesota Utilities & Excavating. The project began in February and is scheduled for completion in December of 2007.

According to Charlie Wilson of Minnesota Utilities & Excavating, "It has been a very rewarding project to be a part of. The site work portion of this project was complicated by environmental and water table issues, which made it the perfect opportunity for MUCA members to get involved." The value of the donated services exceeded \$60,000. For more information on MUCA, visit the Web site at www.muca.org.

NUCA Presented "Trench Rescue 101" at ICUEE

Targeting the needs of professionals in the electric, sewer/water, phone/cable, gas, general construction, government and landscaping businesses, the International Construction and Utility Equipment Exposition (ICUEE) was held Oct. 16-18 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, Ky. NUCA was there not only as a "Supporting Organization," but also to provide attendees with an overview of what is required to safely perform a trench rescue. Safety professionals George Kennedy, NUCA Vice President of Safety, and Greg Strudwick, NUCA-approved safety instructor and President of Strudwick & Associates, were on hand to direct the show and answer questions.

Part presentation, part display, "Trench Rescue 101" covered the relevant OSHA regulations, soil conditions, anatomy of a cave-in, rescue hazards, PPE, shoring arrangements, emergency plans, rescue operations and more.

After the presentation, attendees had an opportunity to take a closer look at different types of shoring, which were set up in an actual trench, as well as some of the equipment and tools used in a rescue. Free copies of the "Trench Rescue 101 for Construction Professionals" PowerPoint presentation are now available for download from the NUCA Web site at www.nuca.com. (Note: The PowerPoint document is not meant to be a substitute for proper trench rescue training, which requires far more detailed information, practice and experience.)

NUCA Unveils New Member Benefit

Several months ago, NUCA's Education Committee initiated a new benefit designed to foster the sharing of key operational policies and procedures that are typically used by all contractors. In the members-only section of the NUCA website, there are a growing number of downloadable samples of policies/procedures under four broad categories — cell phone policies, vehicle usage policies, time off policies and job startup/hazard assessment procedures. More categories and samples will be added as NUCA members come forward with suggestions and contributions.

Education Committee Chair Glenn Ely says that feedback has been universally positive, but stresses that the growth and usefulness of the new benefit depend on member willingness to contribute. "Log on and get a taste of this new benefit," says Ely, "and then take the time to forward samples of your own procedures so that other members can benefit from your knowledge and experience." (Note: All references to the company sharing its procedures will be removed prior to posting.)

NUCA ORSWW Joins Congressman Baird on NWCC Tour

In September, the pictured NUCA of Oregon and Southwest Washington (ORSWW) representatives joined Congressman Brian Baird (D-Wash.) on a tour of the Northwest College of Construction. The college — which is sponsored by the chapter, HBA, AGC and ABC — falls in line with Baird's priority to raise awareness regarding career and technical education, and to help address the need for a skilled workforce.

Seeing that there was no leader in Congress for career and technical education, Baird founded the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus. The Caucus will work to increase awareness of the importance of career and technical education in Congress, supporting funding and resources, and promote legislation that benefits career and technical education.

During the tour, Baird was presented with a NUCAORSWW



NUCAORSWW representatives included (l-r) Shane Tapani, Rick Day, Kevin Tapani, Alan Hagrave, Congressman Brian Baird, Melinda Dailey and Lyle Schellenberg.

PAC check. For more information on NUCAORSWW, visit the Web site at www.nucaorsww.com.

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MEMBER: NUCA • GUCA

GUCA Golf Tournament Raises Money for Scholarships

GUCA members hit the greens on Sept. 17 at the Orchard Hills Golf Course in Newnan, Ga., for the 2007 GUCA Larry S. McReynolds Golf Tournament.

The tournament was established to help give back to the industry by providing scholarships to college students in construction degree programs, as well as other

educational endeavors such as school-to-work programs for high school students and HEO programs for those seeking career opportunities in utility construction.

With 316 players in attendance, the event was GUCA's most successful golf tournament

to date. The morning first place team included: Jamie Hunter, Vulcan Materials Co.; Charles Allender, Richard Harp Excavation Inc.; Blake Isreal, Vulcan Materials Co.; and Mac Rainey, MC Precast. The afternoon first place team and overall winning team for the tournament included: Tim VanEgmond, Mainline Supply of Jonesboro Inc.; Jeff Hortman, Mainline Supply of Jonesboro Inc.; Lane Hale, Mainline Supply of Jonesboro Inc.; and Ted Blackhurst, Premier Utilities & Services Inc.

Jim Dukes of JCD Enterprises made the first hole-in-one in the history of the GUCA golf tournament. For more information about GUCA, visit the Web site at www.guca.com



The overall winning team members show off their trophies (l-r) Lane Hale, Jeff Hortman, Tim VanEgmond and Ted Blackhurst.

GUCA Awards College Scholarships to Construction Management Students

At the Georgia Utility Contractors Association's Fall Quarterly Meeting and Trade Show on Oct. 4 at the Westin Buckhead in Atlanta, Ga., five construction management students at four-year higher education institutions in Georgia received scholarships totaling \$10,000. There were three recipients from Southern Polytechnic State University — junior Marie Benavidez and seniors Joseph Alan Johnson and Jonathan Robertson — and two from Georgia Southern University — juniors Jesse Bentley and Jeremy Daniel. Accompanying the students to the event were their advisors — Dr. Khalid Siddiqi of Southern Polytechnic State University and Dr. Brian Moore of Georgia Southern University.

"GUCA scholarship opportunities help open the door for students to complete their educational goals and hopefully gear their construction-related education to the much-needed utility construction industry," said Bradley Newcomer, GUCA Director of Safety & Education. "The utility construction industry continues to be a vibrant force in Georgia's economy and our members are offering salary and benefit packages to make themselves competitive within the workforce market. These two efforts combined make the utility construction industry a viable choice for graduating college students."

Junior- and senior-level students attending four-year colleges and majoring in construction or engineering degree programs are eligible to apply for scholarships from GUCA. The association has awarded more than \$108,000 in scholarships since 1995. For more information about GUCA, visit www.guca.com.



GSU scholarship recipients Jeremy Daniel (left) and Jesse Bentley (right) pose with the keynote speaker, South Carolina Lt. Gov. André Bauer.



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