

Bridge Over Troubled Waters gets \$150K in equipment for new women's, children's shelter

■ Donation made through Cooking Up Better Lives

THE Bridge Over Troubled Waters, a Pasadena-based nonprofit, recently received more than \$150,000 in equipment and supplies for its new women and children's shelter, slated to open in the spring.

And it's all thanks to Cooking Up Better Lives, a Denver-based organization that works to arrange no- or low-cost donations of kitchen equipment and supplies to shelters, schools, hospitals, group homes, orphanages and other nonprofits.

The new kitchen will make it possible to serve more than 200,000 meals annually, up from 137,000 in the current facility.

Debbie Moseley, executive director at The Bridge, said the news was an early Christmas present for her and the agency's clients.

"I felt as though Santa walked through the door when we got the call that Cooking Up Better Lives wanted to help us design, procure and install our new kitchen."

Houston Food Bank nominated the nonprofit

The Better Lives Makeover call for nominations was distributed nationwide in 2009, looking for a nonprofit in need of a remodel or full build.

Greater Houston Restaurant Association executive Mike Shine forwarded the selection criteria to Houston Food Bank officials, who nominated The Bridge, one of its agencies.

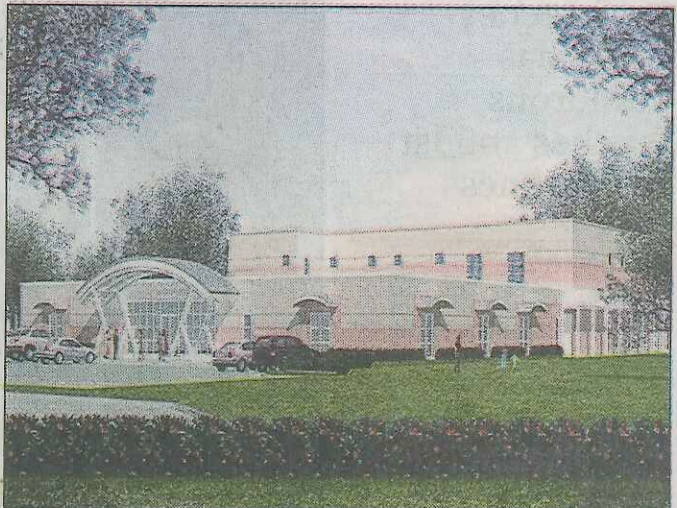
"We see the hearts and hands of Houston residents every day as we collect food and other products," said Brian Greene, CEO of the Houston Food Bank.

"Rarely does an organization get the benefit from something as transformative of an entire industry donating its product to improve one agency."

Community support

More than 20 companies donated equipment and supplies to help complete the kitchen and save The Bridge more than \$150,000 in capital costs.

"The restaurateurs have long been supporters of food banks, shelters and other causes in our communities," said Randy Brunschwig, founder and president of Cooking Up Better Lives.



COURTESY THE BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS

NEW FACILITY: A rendering of the new women and children's shelter at The Bridge Over Troubled Waters that is slated to open in the spring. The nonprofit assists women, children and men experiencing a crisis, particularly those who have been affected by domestic violence, sexual assault or homeless situations. The agency serves Channelview, Deer Park, Galena Park, Jacinto City, La Porte, Pasadena, Houston and South Houston.



COURTESY THE BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS

SPECIAL DELIVERY: Harley-Davidson riders, including Jack Stiles, a member of the Christian Motorcyclists' Association, converged on the San Jacinto Harley-Davidson dealership, 3636 E. Sam Houston Pkwy., Pasadena, on Oct. 25 to collect and deliver non-perishable food to The Bridge Over Troubled Waters.

Donors include Captive-Aire Systems, Carlisle Food-Service Products, Continental Refrigerator, Edlman Company, Inc., Excell Marketing and Procurement, FirstBank of Colorado, Focus Foodservice, Hangman Corporation, Hoshizaki America, Houston Food Bank, Howard-McCray, Insinger Machines, John Boos Company, Krowne Metal Corporation, Nexel Industries, Inc., Nor-Lake, Inc., Olympic Restaurant Equipment, Inc., SupremeMetal, Southbend and Wholesale Restaurant Supply.

The announcement was made Monday, Oct. 25, at an event hosted by the San Jacinto Harley-Davidson dealership, 3636 E. Sam Houston Pkwy., Pasadena.

Harley-Davidson riders and Houston Texan cheerleaders were on hand to col-

lect and deliver non-perishable food and supplies to The Bridge.

"The foundation, individual and corporate communities have made building a new Bridge possible," Moseley said.

Ray Merenstein, executive director of Cooking Up Better Lives, said current economic conditions now more than ever dictate the need for the community and businesses to step up and help organizations that are dedicated to society's most vulnerable people.

"There are too many human service needs in our communities now to ignore the kind of impact we, as an industry, can have," Merenstein said.

For more information, visit www.cookingupbetterlives.org.

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