



# Home Builders Institute

The Workforce Development Arm of the National Association of Home Builders



## **Project TRADE (Training, Restitution, Apprenticeship, Development and Education)** **An Industry Sponsored Training and Placement Program for Adult Ex-Offenders**

Home Builders Institute, the workforce development arm of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), operates Project TRADE (Training, Restitution, Apprenticeship, Development and Education), a program designed to train and place adult offenders in employment in the home building industry. TRADE is being implemented in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the Sheridan Correctional Facility in Sheridan, Illinois and in Ocala, Florida.

### **Industry Involvement**

Project TRADE helps meet the labor demands of the home building industry in Colorado, Florida and Illinois by providing adult ex-offenders with the training and tools to build a better life in residential construction. "Labor availability" remains a serious concern in nationwide surveys of NAHB members. HBAs and their members provide mentors, graduation speakers, job shadowing and construction projects for TRADE students.

### **Outcomes and Results**

Since 1995 more than 500 offenders have been trained for employment in the home building industry through Project TRADE programs in Illinois, Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, Tennessee and Colorado.

- Eighty percent of Project TRADE graduates have been placed in employment
- Recidivism rate of 7.8 percent for program participants

### **Community Service**

Project TRADE uses community service to reintegrate offenders into society, serving as restitution. Students have been involved in the following community construction projects:

- Habitat for Humanity
- Community redevelopment/renovation
- Construction of community-oriented policing facilities
- Construction of portable classrooms, park and playground structures

