The measure of a community is the level of volunteerism, the measure of its success is in those we help.

That is the basis on which WINC (Women in Construction), a non-profit organization of professional women that serves communities and individuals who need help or are in crisis, was established.

Once again, women in the construction industry came together to raise funds for the Habitat for Humanity Women’s Build. The 2009 and 2011 events brought participating women together for a great day to work as a team and give back to our community, while also creating the opportunity to establish lasting relationships and the chance to network with colleagues. In total, the group has raised over $60,000.

“We are proud to be associated with this great cause,” said Ani Bogovic, WINC Founder and Chair Project Manager. “Our membership has clearly demonstrated that we not only talk about charity and community, we live it.”

The first gala event was held in April at the Design Exchange in Toronto to officially launch the organization and to raise awareness for the organization’s work with the Second Base Youth Shelter. Second Base provides emergency food, clothing and shelter for homeless youth and offers opportunities for youth in need. The gala was emceed by charming television personality, Jim Caruk, host of HGTV’s Real Renos, and founder of Canada’s Build It Yourself Learning Centres. The evening featured fun-filled competitions, as well as silent and live auctions. Guests were also treated to appearances from noted designers: CityLine Design Expert and Host/Designer of HGTV’s

Ladies of WINC

Donna Smith, Redmond/Williams; Natalie Bayda, Interior Designer/CKD; Crystal Collinson, Collinson Interiors.

Lisa Lippai, Bell Canada.

Yasmine Goodwin, Primacor Design and Darlene Fraser, Fraser & Co.

Marlene DeGiuseppi, Thornridge Homes and Domenica Desantis, Ellis Don.

Darlene Fraser, Fraser & Co; Kathleen Kelly, HPG, and Janet Prior-Roberts, OPT VIA Logistics.

Host Jim Caruk and Ani Bogovic.
Summer Home, Karen Sealy; Host/Designer of W Network’s Colour Confidential, Jane Lockhart; HGTV’s Income Property and Marriage Under Construction Designer, Melissa Davis; HGTV’s Restaurant Makeover Designer, Glen Peloso; CityLine Design Experts, Ramsin Khachi and Jackie Glass (Editor of RENO & DECOR); and Samantha Sannella, Design Exchange President. Each contributed a one-of-a-kind themed denim jacket to the live auction in keeping with the event theme, Denim and Diamonds.

WINC members are women, but all volunteers are welcome; everyone and anyone who wants to give back, anyone who recognizes it’s ALL ABOUT THE CAUSE. Some great industry supporters have stepped up with sponsorships, have donated materials or offered labour, without which the organization’s projects would not be possible.

Visit iwinc.ca to join as a volunteer, become a member or sponsor the future projects and initiatives.