

**PRESS RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release  
October 19, 2005

Contact: Rhonda Wilson  
rwilson@infopros.com  
916.458.6772

## **Duran & Venables Volunteers Give 'Extreme Makeover' to Create Affordable Housing**

Milpitas, Calif.— It's like a heartwarming scene from television's Emmy award-winning show, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." Silicon Valley Habitat for Humanity volunteers and staff from local grading and paving company, Duran & Venables are restoring two Victorian homes in San Jose to create affordable housing for four families. Only in this instance, they aren't racing against a reality show deadline. They have seven to nine months to restore the structures.

On October 23, this Sunday, Duran & Venables' team of 10 volunteers, ranging from project managers, estimators, foreman, and laborers along with their friends, family and 22 volunteers from Lockheed Martin, will begin the interior demolition phase in the morning. Located at 13th and Julian streets, both structures stand two stories high with raised front porches and house two units each.

Duran & Venables' volunteer effort is part of its ongoing mission to give something back to the communities it serves. "We're a family-oriented company that believes in helping our community," said Mike Lopez, volunteer project coordinator. "I'm proud to be a part of this team."

Habitat for Humanity's project leader Patrick Hamm will provide oversight as the team tears down existing walls and rebuilds them to configure the houses into two-story separate units—one on top, one on the bottom. One of the structures contains two bedrooms and one bath; and three bedrooms and one-and-a-half baths. The other structure contains four bedrooms and two bathrooms for each unit.

Later phases of work include the installation of appliances – including refrigerators, ranges, washers, and dryers – donated by Whirlpool, and construction of a car turnaround space, carport and parking lot.

As work begins Duran & Venables' volunteers and Hamm want to ensure the structural work conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standard for Rehabilitation and

Guidelines for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, so they will not change the buildings' existing characteristics, such as the distinctive features of the Victorian-style homes. According to a City of San Jose Staff Report, these standards state "distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved and deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced."

In addition, the volunteers will try to reuse or repair the Victorians' existing historic materials, including wood siding, wood windows and composition roofing. Research also went into identifying the original paint color to restore the house to its natural look.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency helped save the homes and donated the buildings to the Silicon Valley Habitat for Humanity. The city of San Jose moved these dedicated landmarks built in 1870 and 1890 from their original site on 5th Street to make way for the new San Jose City Hall. The new address places the homes in an older urbanized area where they blend in with other existing residences.

#### **About Duran & Venables, Inc.**

Duran & Venables is a leading provider of grading and paving construction services in Northern California. For more than 25 years, Duran & Venables has been providing quality service and products to its customers, while offering an excellent working environment for its employees. Winning the California Prospector Award for Excellence and the Engineering and Utilities Contractors Association's Excellence in Safety Award two years in a row reflects its long-term commitment and dedication to its customers, employees and community.

###