

## Builder donates \$100,000 to substance abuse program



*CONTRIBUTED IMAGE* Greg Dorst, left, CEO of Cedar House in Bloomington, receives a \$100,000 donation from Jim Previti, right, of Frontier Enterprises in Rancho Cucamonga.

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Cedar House Life Change Center in Bloomington, which has provided substance abuse treatment programs to Inland residents for nearly 35 years, announced today that it has received a \$100,000 donation from Jim Previti Jr., president and CEO of Frontier Enterprises in Rancho Cucamonga.

The donation will launch Cedar House's effort to build a new 25-unit transitional housing complex for young mothers who have graduated from its successful "Before You Were Born" program which provides substance abuse treatment to pregnant women seeking to improve their lives and the lives of their unborn children.

"By providing new mothers with a safe environment where they have access to parenting classes, treatment programs and vocational training, Cedar House will help ensure these women and their children will live happy, healthy lives free of addiction," said Previti, a longtime homebuilder.

Gregory Dorst, the chief executive officer of Cedar House, said Previti's donation marks a milestone for the project.

"Jim's donation puts us on the road to providing safe and nurturing homes for new mothers who have reclaimed their lives from addiction," Dorst said. "Too often, women who became clean and sober during their pregnancy return to the same toxic and abusive environments where they previously abused drugs or alcohol. That heightens the possibility of a relapse that will threaten their well-being and the well-being of their babies."

Previti said the donation to Cedar House was motivated by his own life story. Decades ago, Previti struggled with substance abuse, finding himself penniless, homeless and with a drug conviction.

"There were two paths ahead of me, and when things were darkest, I realized I had to change my life. I was lucky. I found others whose help and guidance provided me with the strength I needed to succeed.

They had faith in me, and I work every day to repay their trust and belief by dedicating myself to helping others," Previti said.

In a story of personal triumph, Previti has remained clean and sober for more than 15 years. A longtime and well-respected Southern California homebuilder, Previti was named in 2004 to the prestigious Builder 100 list compiled annually by Professional Builder Magazine and has been honored as the Builder of the Year by the Building Industry Association.

Established by Previti in 2009, Frontier Enterprises has helped restore communities across Southern California by purchasing more than \$500 million in foreclosed properties and transforming those houses into beautifully restored homes that have been resold to families and first-time buyers.

San Bernardino County Supervisor Josie Gonzales, whose district includes Bloomington, praised Previti and Cedar House, whose work she called vital to the community.

"The consequences of substance abuse during gestation affect not only the baby and the immediate family, they also diminish the attention and retention learning capabilities that directly lead to lower academic achievement levels in our schools," Gonzales said.

"Women who abuse alcohol and drugs are far more likely to be victims of violence, and their children are also more likely to be abused and neglected, perpetrating a pervasive cycle of cruelty and mistreatment. Jim Previti and Cedar House should be applauded for their commitment to helping women break this destructive cycle," Gonzales said.

Previti also created The John P. Previti Memorial Foundation which has given more than \$1 million to nonprofit groups whose programs battle substance abuse, and that aid children and families.

Founded in 1979, Cedar House is dedicated to restoring the lives of individuals and families who have been negatively impacted by chemical dependency, mental illness and unhealthy lifestyles. Cedar House provides both outpatient services and residential treatment services through several facilities, and its programs include individualized treatment planning and counseling. All of Cedar House's programs are licensed and certified by the state Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.