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Leadership & Staff

Lori Waters

By Jade Bulezza

A former tri-athlete, Polk County BA member Lori Waters now concentrates her energy on building homes and supporting the community.

"Lori demonstrates impeccable leadership," said Emmett Reed, CAE, FHBA's Chief Executive Officer. "She encompasses the natural qualities of a leader and knows where she wants to go."

In 2001, an accident partially paralyzed Waters, but it couldn't keep her down.

Born and raised in California by her father who was a home builder, Waters knew from an early age she would follow his footsteps.

"I really enjoyed working with my dad," said Waters. "I always enjoyed the jobsites, the smell of lumber, and everything else around."

She opened Waters Construction twelve years ago with the help of her husband Glenn, who she met at Brigham Young University. The company builds 10 to 15 homes each year.

Waters lives by her philosophy that building long-lasting relationships with customers is essential to a successful business.

"After all, a home is a major investment," said Waters.

Her desire to learn even more about the industry and willingness to give back to her trade is what led her to join the Polk County BA (PCBA). As a PCBA member, Waters is a life director and has served on the Parade of Homes and Finance Committees. She was the first President of PCBA and the association's first woman Builder of the Year.

"Being a woman is a great asset," said Waters. "More women are buying homes these days and asking for another woman's perspective on plans."

As for goals, she achieved more than she dreamed of when she entered the 2006 Aurora Awards. She won three Auroras in the Custom Home, Over \$3 Million category; one for interior detailing, one for kitchens, and one for



Lori Waters

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Waters and husband Glenn build 10 to 15 custom homes per year.



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baths.

Her long term goals include getting one of her children interested in continuing the family home building legacy. Her oldest son Brenton shows the strongest interest. She and Glenn have three additional children: Brittany, Brock, and Beau.



Waters Construction won a 2006 Grand Aurora Award in the Private Residence Over \$3 million category.

Waters is currently the President of Polk County Builders Foundation and has contributed much time in creating eight Future Builder of America chapters. Seven of the eight chapters recently participated in a local charity called Noah's Ark, which provides affordable and accessible housing choices for individuals with developmental disabilities along with social and recreational activities.

"Over the last decade, Lori Waters has carved out a position as one of the best custom home builders in Polk County, not only by excelling at her trade but by her leadership within the industry and her devotion to charitable causes for our community," said Past FHBA President Mike Hickman of Hickman Homes Inc. "When she first got started, I used to kid her that I taught her everything she knows, now it looks like the student has become the teacher."

While Waters shares her knowledge with students, FHBA, and the Polk County BA, she also enjoys serving in the church, playing the piano, and visiting Brittany in Utah.

As a natural born leader, it is well-known among members that Waters will always face her challenges with courage and dignity.

Jade Bulezza is the Public Affairs Specialist for the Florida Home Builders Association.

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