

nament to honor Jim Pintkowski's enthusiasm for playing poker and entertaining friends.

"A few of my friends help me every year," Graves said. "I funded the first one myself, and now we keep a portion of what we earn every year in the account to support the poker tournament and donate the rest to medical research advancement for pancreatic cancer research."

The second annual tournament, held in October, matched the first year's \$8,000 – so a total of \$16,000 has already been donated through the JMP Fund to PCAN for early detection of pancreatic cancer. Graves is grateful to the sponsors and volunteers for their help and support, including apartment-industry sponsors and donors: Keystone Resources, Apartment Finder, CBC/AMRENT, AAA Plumbing, WCA Waste, For Rent, Asset Plus, Sterling Bank and HAA.

"Everything is donated – I host poker, a casino hosting company, provides the tables at a discounted rate," Graves said. "The dealers, helpers, servers and everyone else that helps donate their time. People and businesses can sponsor tables and earn a spot in the tournament, and we do raffles throughout the night for prizes."

For more information, visit [www.jmpfund.org](http://www.jmpfund.org) and [www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org).

### KAPLAN GIVES VETERANS A HAND UP WITH LOW-COST HOUSING

Matthew Summers, president of management with Kaplan Management Company, has a long record of civic involvement in and around the communities he manages.

"It is these sorts of efforts that foster the sense of neighborhood we try to create in contemporary management," he said.

Looking to boost its civic involvement company-wide, Kaplan Management began considering new ways to give back to the community early in 2009.

"As a veteran, I thought of our U.S. military personnel and our war veterans – a group that is often overlooked but is in dire need of assistance," said Summers.

Enter Project We Remember, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for U.S. military veterans and their families. Project We Remember would identify deserving veterans who would be awarded rent-free apartment homes in one of the properties Kaplan owned, operated and managed.

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**Left: Matthew Summers and Michael Kaplan of Kaplan Management accept a token of thanks from Vernon Bagley, president of Project We Remember. Right: Lucy Kiley, Bez Vasquez, Michael Kaplan, Matthew Summers, Michelle Rhone, Darlene Hunter, Jamila Ross, Ginger Posey and Shelly Carrillo.**

Kaplan officially rolled out the partnership with Project We Remember during the grand opening of The District at Mountain Vista in Mesa, Ariz. Public officials and military personnel were invited to participate and make remarks, and an Army veteran and his family moved into an apartment unit that same day. Media covered the event, which was well received by the community.

Because of the program's success in Mesa, the Kaplan executive team decided to extend its partnership with Project We Remember across the company's entire portfolio. September 11 was selected as the date to recognize this commitment, and Kaplan donated apartment homes in four of its Houston-area properties: Westcreek, Parkside, Breakers at Windmill Lakes and Stone Mist.

Vernon Bagley, executive director of Project We Remember, met with social workers at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Administration Medical Center to identify veterans with short and long-term housing needs. Some veterans travel long distances to the VA Medical Center because they require chemo or physical therapy but cannot afford to put themselves and their families in a hotel for an extended period of time. Some of the donated units will be used in these cases. The other units may be used for veterans, identified by the VA Medical Center, who have longer-term needs: those who are homeless or find themselves suddenly unemployed or are just returning from combat.

Kaplan plans to extend its collaboration with Project We Remember in the spring to include its portfolios in Dallas, Fort Worth and Arkansas and hopes to extend the effort even further.

"We are also actively recruiting the ownership of our fee-managed assets to participate in the program and plan to work with Project We Remember to find veterans in similar circumstances that could use a hand up," said Summers. "There are many emotional and physical issues tied to military deployment, and many veterans need time to readjust to civilian life. With Project We Remember, we're helping to make that transition a little easier by providing veterans with a low-cost place to live to help them get back on their feet. All of us at Kaplan Management are honored to help our veterans find a place called home."

### **CENTURY A/C SUPPLY HELPS A FAMILY KEEP COOL**

Century A/C Supply was proud to be a part of the Energy Savings Makeover contest aired on Channel 2 in July. More than 800 families entered their homes into the contest, put together by HVAC expert Gary Parr.

The winner of the makeover, the Jones family from Sugar Land, received a new high-SEER air-conditioning system, a radiant barrier, a renovated attic, new insulation, new windows and several other home improvements. Century provided the Ruud cooling system, a variable speed gas furnace and a matched evaporator coil.

See [GOOD WORKS](#), Page 71

**It is these sorts of efforts that foster the sense of neighborhood we try to create in contemporary management.**

—Matthew Summers, Kaplan Management

## **Get Involved Volunteer HAA** [www.haaonline.org](http://www.haaonline.org)

The Houston Apartment Association's committees and clubs are some of the most productive tools we have to ensure that we remain the nation's largest and most effective apartment association. Committee and club members face the challenge of getting involved to carry out the duties and purpose of each club and committee. Some general responsibilities of committee and club members include a commitment to attend all meetings and help develop marketing strategies (i.e. tele-marketing, developing handouts, fliers, articles). To serve on any of these committees and clubs, please contact the HAA office at 713-595-0300, online at [www.haaonline.org](http://www.haaonline.org) or e-mail the departments listed below.

### **Education [educ@haaonline.org](mailto:educ@haaonline.org)**

Education Advisory Council • SOAPS Committee\*  
HAF Fundraiser Committee\* • Career and Community Development Committee

### **Government Affairs [govaffairs@haaonline.org](mailto:govaffairs@haaonline.org)**

HAA Better Government Fund\* • Century Club\*  
Media Relations Committee • Community Outreach Committee  
Fair Housing Committee

### **Membership [members@haaonline.org](mailto:members@haaonline.org)**

Ambassador Club • Go-Getter Club • Membership Campaign

### **Supplier Services [supprvc@haaonline.org](mailto:supprvc@haaonline.org)**

Expo Exhibitor Committee\*

### **Community Relations [shinkley@haaonline.org](mailto:shinkley@haaonline.org)**

Community Relations Committee • Product Service Council\*

### **Resident Relations [resrel@haaonline.org](mailto:resrel@haaonline.org)**

Resident Relations Committee

\*Note: These committees have specific requirements for membership. Contact HAA for details.