

SADDLEBACK VALLEY

NEWS



NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Builder receives award

Mission Viejo resident Steve Carpenter has dedicated his life's work to rebuilding Orange County with a hammer, nails, some dry wall and compassion. As executive director of Rebuilding Together Orange County, Carpenter has led thousands of volunteers in the revitalization of more than 1,300 low-income residences, community centers and nonprofit headquarters. For his work, Carpenter has been honored as the October 2011 recipient of the O'Connor Mortuary Heart & Soul Award.

Created by O'Connor Mortuary, the Heart & Soul Awards program is designed to recognize Orange County citizens for their passion for life and their dedication to making a difference, whether they possess a lifetime of endeavors or for a one-time inspirational achievement. One Orange County citizen is presented the award each month.

"Steve's handiwork can be found in both the structures he has helped build and the countless residents who have benefited from them," said Neil O'Connor, president and CEO of O'Connor Mortuary. "Steve's extensive contributions stem from a simple desire to use his natural talent to help others."

Carpenter now oversees the rebuilding and refurbishing of buildings throughout Orange County, all of which have a direct tie to the health and vitality of the community. Notable projects include refurbishing multiple Boys & Girls Clubs, a full rebuild of the Southwest Community Center following a fire, renovating the Blind Children's Learning Center and tripling the capacity of Mary's Kitchen.

As a winner of the Heart & Soul Award, Carpenter will receive a plaque, and a donation will be made in his name to Rebuilding Together Orange County.