

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**PUGET SOUND WASHINGTON IEC WINS PRESTIGIOUS
NATIONAL AWARD FOR “EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION”**

Olalla, WA—October 30, 2006— “IEC is pleased to announce that the Puget Sound Washington IEC Chapter won the prestigious award for “EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION FOR RESIDENTIAL BUILDS UP TO \$500,000,” for its participation in last year’s “ABC’S EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION” and the building of the Kirkwood’s home in Burley, WA, at the 49th Annual IEC National Convention and IEC Electric Expo 2006 in Denver, Colorado.”

The chapter and contractors were chosen for this award based on many factors, including the quality of the project, the features, the demand to design, manage and execute ever-changing requirements during the build , uniqueness of the build, and extreme weather conditions.

The chapter Executive Director, Meredith Lambert, who worked to help coordinate the three electrical contractors and their 60 electricians prior to and on the job, accepted the award on the chapter’s behalf. In accepting the award, she stated, “There is no doubt in my mind that being IEC members was the unifying force that helped

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these electricians work as ONE team...not as competitors, in this stressful situation.”

“As many electricians enthused to me by the end of the weekend, despite working for different companies, they had all really bonded. They were all a family now, having shared this amazing, once in a lifetime experience...having given to something bigger than any one of them could ever have imagined. They performed in an amazing show of volunteerism, energy and enthusiasm, while maintaining the highest quality and standards and worked in the toughest of conditions. This was a 21st century Barn Raising! The community, coming together to help a family in need. IEC can be proud of it’s members.”

The three contractor’s that supplied the volunteer electricians were also honored and received awards. Convention attendees **Tom McMullen of McMullen Electric and Rick Lambert of Ahearn Electric** accepted awards on their companies and electricians behalf. **Greg Kuraspediani of E-Z Interface (now Convergent Technology Systems)** was unable to attend.

Over 60 electricians, who volunteered all of their time, worked on the home and were credited by the builder, Howland Homes, with helping him make up 16 hours in time. Countless delays started when a foundation mixture, made for rainy weather, wouldn’t set up due to freezing temperatures. This started a snowball effect of delays, which caused friction and other trades to walk off the job.

The Kirkwood family were honored guests at the convention and were on stage to help present the award to the chapter and contractors.

For more information about the IEC or membership in the Puget Sound WA chapter, call Executive Director Meredith Lambert at 360-876-1299, go to their website at www.pugetsoundwaiec.org, or email the office at pugetsoundiec@cs.com

Established in 1957, IEC is a trade association made up of more than 3,500 members with 74 chapters nationwide. Headquartered in Alexandria, Va., IEC is the nation’s premier trade association representing America’s independent electrical and systems contractors. IEC National aggressively works with the industry to establish a competitive environment for the merit shop – a philosophy that promotes the concept of free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all. For more information, contact Marlise Drischler, Public Relations Manager at (703) 549-7351, or via email: mdrischler@ieci.org.

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(L) L to R: Meredith Lambert, Tom McMullen, Dennis Thomas-National President, Rick Lambert, Zion, Jael, Praise, Michael Jr., Dawn and Michael Kirkwood