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# For Immediate Release | July 1, 2009

## HOME IS WHERE THE SHARK IS

**REDWOOD CITY, CA** - Shark House, the playhouse raffled at Dreams Happen – the biennial fundraiser benefiting Rebuilding Together Peninsula – has found a new home in Redwood City. Shark House will be installed into the winning family's backyard on July 8, 2009.

The winning ticket belongs to Will, an 8 year-old twin boy who only days before winning the playhouse had lost his father to a 3-year battle with cancer.

“The Dreams Happen playhouse auction is an important fundraiser for us,” said Seana O’Shaughnessey, Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Peninsula, “but never in my memory has it also been so inspiring. We are very pleased that Shark House has replaced tears of sorrow with some heartfelt smiles.”

The Shark House raffle took place on June 6, the same day as what would have been Will’s parents’ 11<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Earlier that day, Will’s mother, Daisy, had taken Will and his siblings, Carl and Sarah, to Stanford Shopping Center where Shark House and 14 other custom created playhouses were on display as part of Dreams Happen.

Daisy was having her husband’s wedding band -- which she wears around her neck as a necklace -- cleaned and polished in honor of her anniversary. While at the Shopping Center, she and the children toured the playhouses.

The boys fell in love with Shark House. Created and donated by Wings Architects and Hooper Construction & Remodeling, Shark House is a two-story structure featuring a mock Zamboni control panel, authentic Sharks team hockey puck climbing wall, and a spectacular fiberglass shark head with dorsal fin and tail. At their insistence, Daisy purchased Will and Carl each a raffle ticket. Each boy had a one in 700 chance of winning.

Since winning Shark House, the family has become the talk of Redwood City. Set to arrive on July 8, 2009, the 12-foot playhouse will be installed by crane courtesy of King Crane Service Inc. and Donnelly Kerley Builders, Inc.

“Winning felt like a message on our anniversary,” Daisy said. “I can’t help but think my husband had something to do with it. This is a difficult time in [the kids’] lives but now, when they look at Shark House, they will think of their dad and know good things can still happen.”

Will, Carl and Sarah’s father’s personal hockey skates will be placed inside Shark House in his memory.

**About Rebuilding Together Peninsula:** Rebuilding Together Peninsula builds volunteer partnerships to rehabilitate homes and community facilities for low-income people—elderly, disabled and families—so they can live in warmth, safety and independence. Serving all of San Mateo and northern Santa Clara County, RTP is the largest organization on the Peninsula dedicated to preserving affordable housing and revitalizing communities. Each year, RTP works with thousands of volunteers to provide free home and roof repair services. In its 20-year history, RTP has restored 1,200 homes and community facilities with the help of over 75,000 volunteers with an estimated reconstruction value of \$29,600,000.

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