



JERRY MEEK: "As an organization, we have a corporate responsibility to support and give back to our community," says the founder of Desert Star Construction.

Star Bright

Story by Ashley Loose

WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE SAID, "You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give." Jerry Meek, a talented Valley builder and founder of Desert Star Construction, lives by this standard.

Meek's determination and ambition have been present since he was young. He credits his parents for his passion and responsibility. By age 14, Meek had created his own landscaping business, was student body president at his high school, and, with his father, was licensed for his carpentry career, starting the original Desert Star Construction.

Over the years, the business has transformed into a prestigious construction company which has been featured in numerous publications and has won multiple awards, including, most recently, two Grand Gold Nugget Awards. "I have always tried to remain an apprentice in all that I do so continuous learning may take place," Meek says. "So many of my peers have been repeating the same one year of experience; I have been blessed to have accumulated 33 years of experience." Keeping up with current trends, Desert Star Construction has also been certified to build sustainable green projects and will continue to integrate new technology.

Equally as important as building prestigious homes throughout the Valley, Meek's profound belief in charity helps countless Valley organizations every year. "Our motivation is to help the less fortunate," Meek says. "As an organization, we have a corporate responsibility to support and give back to our community."

Winning the Heart of Business Award in 2010, it doesn't look like Desert Star Construction's charitable sense is going anywhere any time soon. The Arizona Science Center, The Salvation Army and notMYkid are among the countless entities that have been graced with the aid of Meek and his company.

One of Meek's most notable philanthropic projects was donating and assembling the entire kitchen of the Phoenix Dream Center, a center that helps those in need. Currently, Desert Star Construction is working on renovating 10 rooms at the center. Aside from his other commitments, Meek is the chairman of the Phoenix Dream Center Foundation. "I love my job and the people I work with every day," Meek says. "They are the most amazing group of people, and I feel privileged to lead them."

Meek also works beside his wife of three decades, Carol, who shares her husband's enthusiasm to help build their successful company. Outside of work, they love to travel, explore Arizona, cycle and spend time with their sons. ■

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Phoenix Dream Center
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