

Guest Commentary

Teddy Errico, President-Elect Telluride Association of REALTORS®

Local REALTORS® Continue to Pitch in and Even Amaze Me

Over the course of the past fall season, the local REALTORS® community through the Telluride Association of REALTORS®, has once again lent a helping hand to assist in bettering our community. First a little background on the project. If you haven't noticed, the Habitat for Humanity has set up shop in Norwood to build homes for very deserving members of our community one block off of Main Street and the first house is almost ready! I was fortunate to be a part of this effort in October. My job was very labor intensive. My crew and I had to pipe, visquine, and sheetrock the lower level crawl space of one of the Norwood homes. The Telluride Association of REALTORS® also is a Habitat for Humanity financial sponsor of the 2nd home for Amy and Cheyenne Smith by generously donating \$24,500. REALTORS in large force are donating 250+ hours of their time. What impressed me the most is that in this difficult economic time, where many REALTORS® are struggling to make ends meet, they still answered the call to help. I must add that many other individuals and organizations also contributed their time, labor, money, materials, and more.

The REALTORS® and our affiliates also give back to the community in various ways. Since its inception in June of 2002, the Telluride Association of REALTORS® First Time Homebuyers' Assistance Fund has donated over \$258,850 to 343 individuals in the form of 231 grants. The program is supported by brokers, brokerages and affiliates that voluntarily donate money from each one of their closings, and 100% of the money donated goes directly to First Time Homebuyers' closing costs. The TAR Brooks "Hoot" Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund started with a \$24,500 endowment from The Telluride Association of REALTORS® and since its inception in May of 2006, has given 3 local scholarships in the amount of \$12,000. Local REALTORS® are hockey coaches, one to one board members, mentors, firefighters, ambulance drivers and much much more.

Why am I writing this letter? I just want to remind everyone that one of the reasons Telluride is a special place and community is due to the ongoing support and volunteering of many people through many causes. The REALTORS® certainly pitch in their fair share and Telluride is a better place because of it.