



J.T. WAMPLER • THE MORNING NEWS

Lee Scarlett, owner of Celtic Construction in Fayetteville, is donating all the proceeds from the sale of this home to the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter.

Organization Provides Shelter From Storm

BUILDER'S DONATION TO BENEFIT CHILDREN IN NEED

By **Marla Hinkle**

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SPRINGDALE — Celtic Construction Inc. owner Lee Scarlett has put a challenge out to other builders. It's not to build the largest or most houses in booming Northwest Arkansas, but to donate a portion of their profits to the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter in Bentonville.

Scarlett is donating 100 percent of his profit from a home he's building in the Enclave subdivision in Springdale to the shelter. Mezza Harris of Lindsey & Associates and Monica Barnett Wakefield of RE/MAX are donating their commissions as well.

The half-million dollar 3,450-square-foot home has a formal dining room, study area and game room plus more bells and whistles, Scarlett said.

"I get the shelter's quarterly newsletter and read that they had

AT A GLANCE

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S SHELTER

The Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter is a private, nonprofit organization that provides a safe and loving atmosphere to children who are victims of family violence, neglect and physical and sexual abuse. A list of current needs is available on the Web site at www.nwacs.com.

SOURCE: NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S SHELTER

to turn 500 kids away. That made me mad. I told Jack Eaton I didn't have a \$50,000 check to sign right away, but I would donate the proceeds from this home.

"There's no reason why we have to turn kids away," Scarlett said, noting the area's wealth and

success.

Eaton, the shelter's executive director, said Scarlett's donation will go toward general operating costs.

"Lately we've had to serve less children than we would like and turn away more than we serve due to lack of space and funding." In 2005, the shelter expects to serve more than 300 children.

A few of the biggest needs include money to build a new facility on 81 acres the organization purchased. They also need money to buy a new riding lawn mower.

"We are just so proud and pleased that Mr. Scarlett and his wife, Sheri, are so supportive and willing to help us."

Scarlett is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Homebuilders Association, which has supported the nonprofit in the past. Scarlett's individual donation is the first from a builder of this magnitude, Eaton said.