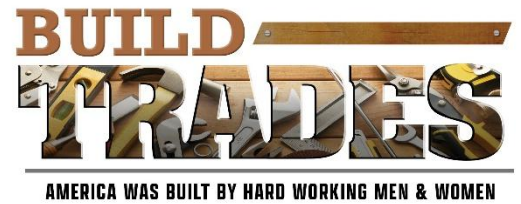


# PRESS RELEASE



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## K-6 Block Building Contest at I-X Center

(Independence, Ohio) – When is a toy block not a toy block?

When it’s a pathway to the future.

For the 3rd year in a row, HBA’s Charitable Education Foundation, now known as the Build Trades Foundation, recently hosted their K-6 Block Building Contest at the Cleveland Home + Remodeling Expo at the I-X Center. The two-day contest, open for students in grades K-6, was one of many ways that Build Trades encourages young people to consider becoming builders one day.

Adrian N., an 11-year old from Strongsville took first-place in the recent Student Building Block Contest and has been playing with building blocks since he was four. “I want to be a contractor when I’m an adult,” he said.

Hearing those words from young people today is great news because the construction industry is facing a workforce shortage is a serious problem for our national economy. The industry needs to attract, educate, and train about 100,000 in Ohio alone in the next few years.

With his first place victory, Adrian took home a \$100 giftcard. The second place winners were awarded a \$75 giftcard and the third place winners were awarded a \$50 giftcard.

The contest was broken up into two groups. The first group was dedicated to students in grades K-3 and the second group consisted of students in grades 4-6.

Build Trades and its Building Block Contest aims to expand awareness and inspire children to build, using their hands, and being creative.

“This has been one of our best student events thus far,” Build Trades Executive Director, Brenda Callaghan stated. “The grade school children’s projects are judged by our high school students who are enrolled in our Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT) program. Having this event at the Remodeling Expo adds an element of excitement for students because their parents and the public can watch them build a house within a 45-minute time limit, highlighting their individual skills and creativity.”

Click [here](#) for photos of the event.

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*The Build Trades Foundation empowers high school students by providing access to an approved construction curriculum while inspiring and preparing the next generation of skilled tradespeople, and promoting sustainable careers in the construction industry.*