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Drexel Building Supply Donates \$1.5 Million Dollars to Local Skilled Trades Center

Madison, WI: The Madison Area Builders Association (MABA) announced today a \$1.5-million-dollar donation to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dane County (BGCDC) and MABA Skilled Trades Center, part of the McKenzie Regional Workforce Center. The funding was generously given by Drexel Building Supply, a leading provider of building materials and services in Wisconsin. Drexel is a MABA member and has eight locations across the state, employing hundreds of skilled trades industry individuals.

“We empower our team daily to make a difference in our communities and to our builders. When our team caught wind of the vision McKenzie, MABA, and the BGCDC had with this facility we knew this aligned with our mission to supply happiness. It starts with 1 hammer, 1 kid with a dream, and home by home this special group will change the landscape of generating labor and excitement for our industry,” says Keith Batenhorst, Head Coach: Drexel Team of Columbus and current MABA Treasurer.

Since June, the BGCDC and MABA have raised in excess of \$10 million dollars toward the \$17 million dollar fundraising goal for the new Workforce Center, which will cover the purchase and improvement cost of the building, as well as a \$12 million dollar endowment, making the program operation self-sustaining. The building is located at 5225 Verona Road in Fitchburg and is in the final stages of the design process. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall and be completed by fall of 2022.

“MABA members continue to show their commitment to our community and the McKenzie Regional Workforce Center through cash and in-kind donations,” says Chad Lawler, Executive Director of MABA. “Moving forward, the McKenzie Regional Workforce Center will house the MABA Skilled Trades Center powered by Drexel Building Supply. This area of the Workforce Center will focus on teaching kids life skills, hard work, and will prepare them for a career in the construction industry and skilled trades. We are so grateful for Drexel Building Supply and its contribution!”

Middle school and high school aged students will be encouraged to participate in the programs offered by the Skilled Trades Center. The mission of the center is to make local youth aware of the countless opportunities available in construction trades, including carpentry, masonry, electrical installation, etc. Older students will be eligible for paid internships and on-site construction work as they progress through the program. Upon graduating from the program, participants will be in line for area skilled trades roles, many of which begin with wages exceeding \$18 an hour.

Madison Area Builders Association staff and members are available for interviews. For interview opportunities or information on how to become a donor, please contact Chad Lawler at 608-288-1135.