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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FREDERICKSBURG BUILDER WINS NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARD**

Sierra Homes of Fredericksburg, Texas has been recognized by the NAHB Research Center, a subsidiary of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), as a leader in energy-efficient construction. As a winner of a 2010 Gold EnergyValue Housing Award (EVHA), Sierra Homes has demonstrated a laudable commitment to building energy-efficient homes.

Now in its 15th year, the EVHA program not only recognizes energy-efficient practices, but also serves to educate the home building industry and the public about advanced technologies and successful approaches to energy-efficient construction that can be implemented by mainstream builders. EVHA winners select framing methods, insulation, HVAC technologies, and appliances that result in high efficiencies, paying careful attention to air sealing, ductwork, and ventilation as well.

“Winning this award literally puts our company in the national spotlight,” said Teresa Fransik, co-owner and principal of Sierra Homes. “While we enjoy the recognition of this prestigious honor, it is even more gratifying to see it bring awareness and validity to the concepts of green building and the application of better building science, which are our company passions.”

Michael Luzier, president of the NAHB Research Center said, “EVHA winners, like David and Teresa Fransik, are truly pioneers and innovators in high performance home construction. But the beauty of what they do is not in its novelty, but rather in its ability to be applied to mainstream construction across the county. That is especially important in the current economic climate when homebuyers and owners are looking for every opportunity to optimize the value of their home and energy purchases.”

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Sierra Homes' winning project was built for Rick and Stephanie Ertel, who relocated from Dallas to build in Mountain Home on property that had been in Stephanie's family for more than 40 years. Her brother, Stephen Lochte, of San Francisco-based Brand+Allen Architects served as the architect on the project.

"Working for homeowners who placed energy efficiency at the top of their goals and were willing to adapt to living without instant mechanical remedies gave Sierra Homes and its architect the freedom to design a unique passive solar, off-grid home that includes no mechanical cooling system and uses only a wood stove for heating," said Sierra co-owner and principal David Fransik.

The award-winning project has been showcased on the cover of *EnergyValue Housing Award* magazine and featured in *Green Builder* magazine. According to the EVHA judges, "This project truly represents thought leadership and the benefits of what happens when the client, architect, and builder collaborate well. Sierra Homes clearly demonstrates a commitment to responsible building ... and a personal commitment to building science that is truly unusual."

The EVHA program is managed by the NAHB Research Center, and operated in partnership with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the U.S. Department of Energy through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The 2010 award sponsors included BASF – The Chemical Company, Dow Building Solutions, SEISCO International, The Vinyl Institute, American Clay, BuildingGreen LLC, The Vinyl Siding Institute, and Whirlpool Corporation.

For more information on Sierra Homes contact Teresa Fransik at 830-997-5020 or [Teresa@FredericksburgGreenBuilder.com](mailto:Teresa@FredericksburgGreenBuilder.com). To learn more about the EVHA program, contact Debra Sagan, EVHA program manager, at [dsagan@nahbrc.com](mailto:dsagan@nahbrc.com) or (800) 638-8556, ext. 6210.

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**About the NAHB Research Center:** Located in Upper Marlboro, Md., the NAHB Research Center promotes innovation in housing technology to improve the durability, affordability, and environmental performance of homes and home building products. Created over 45 years ago as a subsidiary of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), the NAHB Research Center has established itself as *the* source for reliable, objective information and research on housing construction and development issues. Through its various testing and certification services, including National Green Building Certification, the Research Center seal is internationally-recognized as a mark of product quality and an assurance of product performance.

**About Sierra Homes:** Sierra Homes builds custom residences for the Fredericksburg, Texas community, specializing in energy efficient, durable construction. We are the premier green builder in the area and can integrate as few or as many green features into your home that you may desire. Our Energy Star certification of all homes assures a commitment to quality standards and energy efficiency, providing reduced utility bills for now and the future. Green certification with the LEED-H program of the US Green Building Council or NAHB Green verifies our commitment to building quality homes.