



For Immediate Release

Contact: Frank De Lucia
727-600-8900

***Abilities Guild Veterans Mall Selected as
Home Depot 'Celebration of Service'
Renovation Project***

Makeover Takes Place February 8, 2013

Clearwater, FL (January 24, 2013) Home Depot volunteers participating in the national *Celebration of Service* will make much-needed modifications to the Abilities Guild Veterans Mall. "We are honored that The Home Depot Foundation has selected the Veterans Mall as the focus of its Tampa Bay area service project," said Abilities Foundation president and CEO Frank De Lucia. "The Mall has measurably improved the lives of wounded veterans. This renovation — the materials and labor for which are 100 percent donated — will enhance our ability to serve those men and women who served our country."

Bill and Marsha Uhler, owners of Mr. Bill's Fine Foods, will donate and serve lunch to the volunteers. "The Uhlers are a driving force behind the Mall," said De Lucia. "They are extraordinarily generous and supportive of our work benefiting disabled military veterans."

The Abilities Guild Veterans Mall is a storeroom of coffeemakers, toasters, pots and pans, crock pots, linens, blankets, and job-interview clothing given for free to wounded veterans referred from the Bay Pines VA Hospital who are transitioning from homelessness to apartment life. The Mall is operated by volunteers, and 100 percent of donations directly benefits recipients, primarily disabled Vietnam-era veterans, but wounded OIF/OEF veterans as well.