LA BUENA VIDA HOUSE
Project Spotlight

CUSTOMER: La Buena Vida Youth Leadership Foundation
Irving, TX

INSTALLER: Rick Leggit
Key Life Homes, Inc.
Irving, TX

DISTRIBUTOR: Kevin Adams
Interceramic
Dallas, TX

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER: Terry Penn
Key Life Homes, Inc.
Irving, TX

ARCHITECT: Mike Wright
MJ Wright & Assoc.
North Richland Hills, TX
La Buena Vida House is a new residential youth facility in Irving, Texas designed to house up to 16 homeless high school students who have lost both parents through death, abandonment, abuse, or mental illness. Student residents benefit from the opportunity to finish high school while receiving training from mentors in topics such as business development, personal finance, practical housekeeping, and more. The program is designed to keep the residents on track to earn their degree and succeed in life.

Featuring eight bedrooms, eight bathrooms, and several kitchens, this house is the first built by the La Buena Vida Youth Leadership Foundation, but the organization has provided support to homeless youth in other ways for many years and is planning to build additional facilities in the future.

When Interceramic, a top manufacturer and distributor of ceramic tile and natural stone in North America, heard about the house project, they volunteered to donate the tile and contacted LATICRETE to provide the setting materials.

“This is a great opportunity to help these kids get through a difficult time in their lives by making sure they have a living environment that is safe, comfortable, and low maintenance. It’s a privilege to play a role in something this important.”

~ Lori Carriello
LATICRETE Distributor Sales Representative

**Situation**

Builders faced three major challenges with this project:

**Budget** — Because this is a non-profit facility, the construction budget was very modest. Initial specifications for the floors in the house called for carpet, but everyone involved knew that wouldn’t hold up well over time.

**Traffic** — With a dozen residents and a handful of full-time staff, as well as visitors and friends who will be moving through the house, wear and tear will be an issue. With the offer of donations from Interceramic and LATICRETE, the construction spec changed to incorporate tile throughout the entire house.

**Maintenance** — This is not a typical residential home environment where the homeowners do regular cleaning and maintenance to prolong the life of materials. For this reason, low-maintenance materials are necessary for success.

**Challenge**
A LATICRETE Solution

To address budget concerns, LATICRETE donated its products to this well-deserving project. To address the property’s traffic and maintenance concerns, Interceramic and LATICRETE selected 4-XLT® adhesive mortar, which was perfect for the project’s large tiles, and the easy to clean PERMACOLOR® Select Grout.

4-XLT, a multi-use, polymer fortified adhesive mortar was used to install the tiles on the floor. It is ideal for bedding the large 18” x 18” (45.72 x 45.72 mm) tiles used in this project while preventing lippage commonly associated with the installation of large format tiles. Offering tremendous utility, 4-XLT features a smooth and creamy consistency and is ideal for most types of thin-set flooring applications with the ability to bond to many suitable substrates.

PERMACOLOR Select, an advanced high-performance cement grout that offers the industry’s first dispersible dry pigment solution, was also used in the tile installation. PERMACOLOR Select is designed for virtually all types of residential and commercial installations and offers optimum performance on the most demanding exterior or interior applications. It is designed to be easy to mix, grout and clean, and is fast setting.

“...We were so glad to be able to work with tile in the most heavily trafficked areas of this home. By using LATICRETE® products for the tile installation, we know this facility will hold up well and be a place of refuge and hope for the community of Irving for many years to come.”

~ Rick Leggit
Key Life Homes

Outcome

The project is on schedule to be completed in time for the residents to return to school in the fall of 2015, and is a testimony to the generosity of the community and the suppliers who were involved. Thanks to the existing relationship with Interceramic, LATICRETE was able to get involved and has established a number of new relationships through the process. These teens now have a place to call home, people who will help them get back on track, and a lot of hope for the future.