

Skeet shooters fired up, raising money for HomeAid

By Sophia Kazmi, STAFF WRITER
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LIVERMORE — More than 350 shooters spent their Thursday destroying orange disks to help the homeless. The sixth annual HomeAid Trap Shoot at the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club brought first-timers and skeet shoot veterans who aimed to raise more than \$250,000 for HomeAid Northern California, the charitable arm of the Home Builders Association of Northern California.

Participants paid \$350 each for the privilege to compete, with entry fees and money raised by a silent auction going toward building shelters and homes for the homeless throughout the Bay Area.

Since its inception seven years ago, HomeAid has built and furnished six shelters, totaling nearly 250 beds, including projects for Shepherd's Gate in Livermore and Shelter Inc., in east Contra Costa County. In 2007, it's supporting another \$20 million in projects for shelters and residences for the developmentally disabled.

On the range, shotguns blasted every few seconds, shattering the flying orange skeet disks. Teams got into the competitive spirit, coming up with team names for the day. Onelaw firm's team was called "Hired Guns." "Dead Eyes," "Straight Shooters," "Relentless Assault" and "Duck!" were some of the others.

Jeff Grady of Marin said he enjoyed participating in the event. He's said he has only shot about three times before, but he was having fun.

"You get to meet with everyone," Grady said. "It's not like a golf tournament where you're only with four people."

The idea came from one of the Homebuilders Association members who took a client out shooting, said Julie O'Connor, HomeAid's executive director. The idea was passed along as a way to network while maintaining a competitive spirit. So the group thought it would try to do a fundraiser at the shooting range.

This is the sixth annual trap shoot.

The first year was a hit, raising more than \$75,000.

As of last year, the event had raised \$850,000.

Organizers hoped Thursday's event would take them well past the \$1 million mark, and perhaps as high as \$1.1 million.

Reach Sophia Kazmi at skazmi@bayareanewsgroup.com or 925-847-2122.