

# Phoenix man cuts hair for home

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Sharon Ford snips off Darrell Blomberg's waist-length ponytail, which he sacrificed to raise money to build a home for a needy family.

Hair today, Habitat home tomorrow.

Darrell Blomberg, president of AzTech Realty of Phoenix, made the ultimate sacrifice recently by auctioning off his beloved ponytail to build a home for a needy family.

Blomberg attended the annual Habitat for Humanity Valley of the Sun Blueprints & Blue Jeans gala with the intent of raising enough money to build an entire Habitat home.

When he attended the event last year, he was surprised that although most of the guests were bidding on building material auction items, only the prevailing high bidders made donations. The rest of the bidders went home with their money.

So this year he developed a plan to address that problem, and it involved his waist-length ponytail. Blomberg had planned on eventually donating the 'do to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to children suffering from medical-related hair loss. So he decided to accelerate his plan and shear his locks at the auction if enough bidders ponied up cash.

When the bidding reached \$10,000, the auctioneer yelled "get the scissors," but because a new home would cost closer to \$65,000, Blomberg insisted that the auction continue.

With a little prodding, the aggregate bidders reached the \$65,000 mark, so Blomberg grabbed a chair and shouted, "Cut it off!"

"We have raised money using many different methods . . . but this is a first to raise an entire house from a haircut," said Christine Odom, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Valley of the Sun.