

by COURTNEY DRAKE-McDONOUGH
photography by WONDERWORKS

Peter Kudla

IN BUSINESS, DENVER HOME
BUILDER **PETER KUDLA** IS
DRIVING THE TREND TOWARD
HIGH-DENSITY HOUSING NEAR LIGHT
RAIL STATIONS. IN THE COMMUNITY, HE
RAISES MILLIONS FOR THE CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL THROUGH HIS TINY MIRACLES
FUNDRAISERS. AND AT HOME, HE COOKS
A MEAN CHILEAN SEA BASS.



HAVING MASTERED TWO ESSENTIAL
ELEMENTS OF LIFE—PLACES TO LIVE,
FOOD TO EAT—KUDLA TURNED HIS
ATTENTION TO THAT LAST ESSENTIAL
ELEMENT: **GOOD HEALTH.**

SINCE launching his career in the mid-1970s, Peter Kudla has been helping people feel right at home. He got his start as Director of Housing at Boston University, where he operated the on-campus

dormitory system that housed students. He then moved to Denver to join M.D.C. Holdings, a home builder and apartment developer.

Continuing in the same field, Kudla founded Beacon Hill Investments, a real estate investment firm focused on apartment development and management, in 1984. Then, in 1996, he founded Metropolitan Homes, Inc., a private land developer and builder of nearly 1,900 low-maintenance townhomes, condominiums and villas. Today, Kudla is the President and CEO of both Metropolitan Homes and Beacon Hill Investments. With Metropolitan Homes, Kudla has built low-maintenance res-

idences in Denver, Longmont, Westminster, Aurora, Littleton and Boulder. His company is currently building a large transit-oriented development with easy access to shopping, Light Rail, pedestrian paths

and open space along I-25 and Dry Creek. The project is known as Vallagio at Inverness.

Over the years, Kudla has witnessed many changes in the home-building business.

"Livable space designs have changed significantly, including an emphasis on outdoor amenities," says Kudla. He has seen a change from low-density environments, such as single-family homes, to higher-density ones, such as townhouses, as well as the need for transit-oriented environments. All of this business of creating homes keeps Kudla working 60 to 70 hours per week. Yet he still finds time to fit so much more into his life.



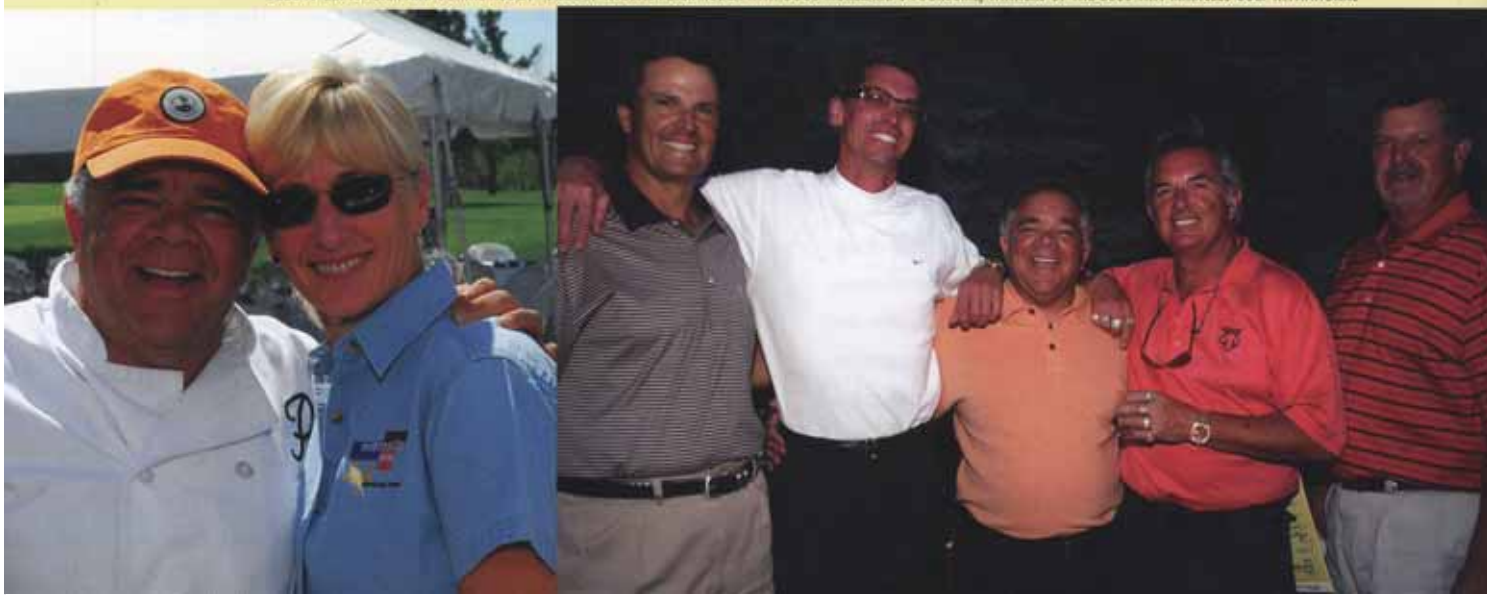
Tiny Miracles Golf Invitational

Tiny Miracles benefits the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Cancer Center, Special Care Clinic and Heart Institute at The Children's Hospital. The organization's events make it one of the hospital's major fundraising entities. This is the second year for the Tiny Miracles Trot and the seventh year for the Golf Invitational.

- Aug. 26: Tiny Miracles Trot: 5K Fun Run/Walk at Vallagio at the Inverness Business Park
- Aug. 29: Tiny Miracles Golf Invitational at Inverness Hotel and Conference Center

For more information about either event, contact Donna Houchin at Metropolitan Homes at 303-758-7188, 303-222-1304 or d.houchin@metropolitanhomes.net. For more information, visit www.tinymiracles.net.

ABOVE LEFT: PETER AND BONNIE KUDLA, CHUCK BREGA **ABOVE RIGHT: BONNIE KUDLA, DONNA ANTONOFF, GARY ANTONOFF, PETER KUDLA**
BELOW LEFT: PETER AND BONNIE KUDLA **BELOW RIGHT: PETER KUDLA WITH DOUG MORELAND'S FOURSOME, WINNERS OF THE 2006 TINY MIRACLES GOLF INVITATIONAL**





"I FELT THE ENERGY,
THE GROWTH AND
THE PATIENTS' WILL TO LIVE
WHEN I VISITED..."

*A passion for the art
of cooking*

While Kudla has a great mind for business, he has a real soul for cuisine. He loves to cook—really loves to cook—especially for family and friends. Ask him about his love for cooking and he waxes poetic, describing how his interest began in his Italian home and neighborhood in upstate New York. It now extends from a simple meal at home with his wife, Bonnie, to cooking for large groups "in Denver and any other city where there's opportunity for great people and great occasions," Kudla says.

When asked about his most-impressive dish, Kudla exclaims, "Impressive is not the point; it's about what's the most passionate." He continues, "The kitchen in my home is about my passion for food, family and friends. It's not just food. Cooking is art; cooking is a passionate heart. Cooking is engagement with energy and people." Who wouldn't want to be in the presence of culinary passion like that?

Of his wife's cooking abilities, Kudla says, "Bonnie can hold her own in the kitchen, but she's much more of a planner." This strength comes in very handy when the couple puts their energies toward philanthropic endeavors.

A dedication to the community

Having mastered two essential elements of life—places to live, food to eat—Kudla turned his attention to that last essential element: good health. While reviewing more than 75 charitable organizations back in 2001, a visit to the Neonatal Department of Children's Hospital made a particular impact. "I felt the energy, the growth and the

patients' will to live when I visited that department," remembers Kudla. "It's

indicative of all departments at Children's Hospital." In an effort to provide a venue for community involvement to raise awareness and capital for the hospital, Kudla created Tiny Miracles, one of the major fundraising organizations for The Children's Hospital. Kudla developed several giving opportunities for Tiny Miracles, most notably the Tiny Miracles Golf Invitational, scheduled for Aug. 29 this year.

"We basically run the entire event for Tiny Miracles between me, my wife and my team at Metropolitan Homes," explains Kudla. The team handles all aspects of the event—from contracting vendors and creating marketing materials to cooking a gourmet lunch for all the golfers and staff the day of the event. In the evening, Kudla whips up a formal dinner for a mere 450 guests. He also serves as auctioneer for many wonderful auction items, including dinner parties prepared and hosted by Kudla himself.

Other Tiny Miracles events include the newly organized Tiny Miracles Trot, a 5K family run/walk on Aug. 26. Since 2001, the popular and successful events have raised in excess of \$4.5 million for the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Cancer Center, Special Care Clinic and Heart Institute.

Metropolitan Homes is involved in a variety of causes that impact arts, culture, affordable housing and children. Peter Kudla fills his life with good things—a meaningful business, a passion for nourishing others and a belief in helping those in need. Kudla says, "Being a role model for my company and being passionate about making a difference in my daily life makes me naturally involved." **CE**