



***Ken Jones, Carpenter for Bell & Associates on the Chestnut Street Bridge Replacement Project in Nashville***

## **Ken Jones**

About 10 months ago, Ken Jones, a self-employed general contractor, was faced with a difficult decision. With the U.S. recession deepening and his business suffering, Ken decided it was time to find steady employment. “It wasn’t to the point that I was about to lose my home, but I was concerned about being able to pay the bills and take care of my family,” he said.

The married father of one was hired by Bell & Associates and went to work on one of the State Route 840 projects under construction near his home in Williamson County. Within just a couple of months, Bell & Associates was awarded the contract to replace a Nashville area

bridge, a project funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Ken, an expert carpenter, has been working on that project since it began in August 2009, building forms for the concrete that will hold the surface of the new bridge.

Bell & Associates is the prime contractor on a number of stimulus funded projects, including the \$32 million Interstate 40/White Bridge Road Interchange Modification Project. Company officials say the new projects have not only allowed them to retain their employees, but also to hire new workers. Ken Jones couldn’t be more thankful. “The Recovery Act helped me get a job when I needed one and I enjoy the work I’m doing. I’m learning skills that I’ll be able to use the rest of my life.”

The Chestnut Street Bridge Project will replace the 60+ year old bridge that crosses over the CSX Railroad just south of downtown Nashville. The \$2 million project also includes upgrades to a nearby intersection and storm sewer system. It is expected to be complete in June, 2010.