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Canstruction 2008: Structural Ingenuity Award Winner

In 2008, competing against 17 other teams, BRR received “Structural Ingenuity” for our **Shining Light on Hunger** Canstruction entry.

Canstruction is a design/build competition with a unique way to help feed the hungry. Competing teams, led by architects and engineers, showcase their talents by designing giant sculptures made entirely out of canned foods. Local judges give awards in five categories: Honorable Mention, Best Use of Labels; Best Meal, Structural Ingenuity, and Juror’s Favorite. At the close of the exhibitions all of the food used in the structures is donated to stock the shelves of Harvesters, a local food bank.

Designing the structure is no easy task. It starts with various ideas/themes/concepts. It is then decided which of these ideas will be CANstructible, original, and be recognizable. After the design has been chosen, many hours are then spent in various grocery stores looking for products with the right colors, size, and shape to become the building blocks of the design. Next is the long task of designing the structure with the help of CAD, 3-D software and some pre-building. From the first day at the grocery stores to the last day of design, 60-80 hours are spent on the project. On the day of the build, each team, which consists of 5 team members, will have 12 hours to build their structure.

Our 2008 structure, based on a Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb, contains approximately \$5,000.00 worth of food products. The screw base of the bulb is constructed using peas. The bulb base uses cans of chicken broth to provide a solid base for the helical bulb. The helical bulb utilizes cans of mushrooms while the void inside the bulb is filled with cans of tuna to support the helical bulb. All of the food in this structure translates into approximately 2,145 meals.

We are very excited to head to the National Competition to compete with other Structural Ingenuity winners from across the nation.

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