



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Pinellas &
West Pasco Counties

The Community Builder
DECEMBER 2023 | VOL. 25



**inside
this
edition:**

a note from
the CEO
page 2

elected officials
build day
page 4

homeowner
holiday party
page 5

A Note from Mike Sutton, President & CEO



Dear Habitat Supporter,

Welcome to the twenty-fifth edition of The Community Builder newsletter!

This exclusive communication is specifically designed for you – our Advisory Board Members, Board of Directors, Emeritus Trustees, Legacy Society Members, Community Builders Society Members, and major donors. The goal of this monthly communication is to provide you with insight into current and upcoming projects, events and initiatives designed in support of our mission.

The holidays are in full swing, and time is flying by! As we wrap up the year, our affiliate will have closed on a record amount of homes in the calendar year. By the end of 2023, 80 families will be celebrating their first holiday season in their new forever home. These families will be able to gather around the Christmas tree, light the Menorah, and create precious memories together in their safe and stable house they now call home.

This accomplishment would not be possible without you. I want to thank you for your continued support of our mission. Thanks to you, over 860 families will celebrate the holidays in their safe and affordable homes.

These last 12 months have been challenging, but as I look back over 2023, I am thankful for so much. I am thankful for Habitat and thankful for all of our donors, volunteers, homeowners, and staff. Our team of 70 employees is ready for another successful year in 2024, and we look forward to seeing Habitat supporters on the build sites, at events, and welcoming more families home in the new year.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership. Together, we will continue to move the mission forward to build homes, communities and hope.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Sutton". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Mike Sutton, President & CEO
Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco



our mission

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

2023 Philanthropist of the Year Awards

Congratulations to our president and CEO, Mike Sutton, for being recognized during the Tampa Bay Business & Wealth Magazine 2023 Philanthropists of the Year Awards! The Philanthropists of the Year Awards honor those individuals and organizations who lead the way in Tampa Bay through philanthropic devotion. Congrats to all the honorees!



Marketing Award

Marketing & Communications Team Receives Award of Excellence

Congratulations to our Marketing and Communications team! PRSA Tampa Bay Chapter presented the team with an Award of Excellence for our CEO Build media toolkits at the 2023 PRestige Award Ceremony hosted at the University Club of Tampa.



Affiliate Award

Habitat Receives 2023 Good 'Burger Large Community Conscious Award



On December 12th, Habitat attended the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce's Annual Good 'Burger Awards at Coastal Creative. Habitat Pinellas & West Pasco was the recipient of the Large Community Conscious Award! This award focuses on nonprofits with 50+ Employees and highlights those non-profit champions who work tirelessly every day to help others who need them.

Community Partnerships

Advocacy in Action

Pasco Elected Officials Build Day

Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties welcomed a group of Pasco elected officials to one of its build sites on Wednesday morning in Holiday, FL. The special event was hosted by Florida Senator Ed Hooper (District 21), representing northern Pinellas County and western Pasco County. Exhibiting an effort to show that affordable housing is a nonpartisan issue, more than a dozen officials united to help the Hernandez Family move closer to their home dedication day by painting the exterior of the home.



Tampa Bay Business Journal

Second Annual 40 Under 40 Build Day

Habitat hosted the 2nd Annual Tampa Bay Business Journal 40 Under 40 Build Day. The 2023 nominees joined us out on a build site in Largo where they assisted in painting the Johnson and Aguirre-Ortega homes. Habitat is proud to have sponsored this year's award ceremony and looks forward to continuing this tradition for years to come. Congratulations once again to this year's honorees!



Habitat Program

Annual Homeowner Candidate Holiday Party

On December 12th, over 90 of our homeowner candidate families gathered for a Christmas Dinner at Anona United Methodist Church. This is always a great way for our staff to continue to encourage our homeowner candidates to keep pushing through the program and remind them that homeownership is around the corner.

Homeowner Candidates heard from Kevin Dorsey, a current Habitat homeowner and staff member, who shared the inspiring story of his Habitat journey. The Dorsey Family was denied the first time his family applied for the program. Kevin shared that he thought of this as a 'temporary stoppage', not the end of his journey. The family applied once more and was accepted into the program. They put in a lot of hard work into their sweat equity hours despite having to navigate the pandemic. In March of 2021, the Dorsey family received the keys to their forever home. Kevin's story was an inspiring way to start the festive evening.

Families took part in a very merry evening. They enjoyed a delicious spaghetti dinner served by the Habitat staff, took family photos, and decorated ornaments for their Christmas trees.

Happy
Holidays





Habitat
for Humanity®
of Pinellas & West Pasco Counties

2023

Impact Report

80

NEW HOMES
CLOSED

\$32M

IN TOTAL
REVENUE

6.1K

EDUCATION HOURS
COMPLETED

40K

VOLUNTEER
HOURS


Continued our partnership with **Kids Pedal Power** to provide **116 bicycles** to children in the Habitat program on their dedication day. 


Presented a check for **\$1,321,859** to the Pinellas County Commission, representing taxes paid by Habitat Homeowners in 2022. 

Hosted the second annual **CEO Build** through which over **\$160,000**

was raised by  **55 CEOs** committed to creating affordable homeownership solutions.


Through our tithing efforts, **73 homes** were funded internationally through Habitat for Humanity's global work. 

Over **\$852,000** was raised at Habitat's Disco Ball Gala to support affordable homeownership opportunities for deserving families. 

Hosted our second Community Leader Build Day with **25 elected officials** from across Pinellas County. 

Celebrated our **800th home dedication** with the Clayton Family in Lealman, St. Petersburg. 

Launched **post-closing education classes** for Habitat Homeowners that cover important topics like budget refreshers and home maintenance. 

Celebrated a record-breaking fiscal year with 73 new homes constructed in our community with our **Admin HQ Expansion Open House**. 

Engaged in the ongoing progress of **eight multi-family developments** in our service area. 

Affiliate Accolades

- Recognized as the second largest Habitat Affiliate based on new home builds across nearly 1,000 US affiliates
- Presented with the John 6:9 Award from Habitat International, recognizing the affiliate's lifetime tithe that totals more than \$3M+.
- 2023 Tampa Bay Business Journal One Tampa Bay Recipient
- 2023 Energy Star Partner of the Year Award Winner
- 2023 Tampa Bay Business Journal Best Places to Work Recipient
- 2023 Amplify Clearwater Environmental Steward Award Recipient
- 2023 Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year
- 2023 Tampa Bay Times Best of the Best New Home Builder
- 2023 Good 'Burger Large Community Conscious Award Recipient

Team Member Accolades

- Mike Sutton, President & CEO, recognized as a 2023 USF Fast 56 Honoree, a Tampa Bay Business and Wealth Magazine Philanthropist of the Year Honoree, and was featured on Tampa Bay Business Journal's Power 100 List for third year
- Gaby Camacho, former Chief Construction Officer, selected as a 2023 Tampa Bay Business Journal Business Woman of the Year Honoree
- Habitat Homeowner and Board Member, Davisha Earley, recognized with the Tampa Bay Lightning Community Hero Award
- Habitat's Marketing Team received the Award of Excellence for the 2023 CEO Build Toolkit at the PRSA PRestige Awards.

Habitat Gives Back

Habitat Partners with Directions for Living for the Holidays

We are thrilled to announce that for the third year, Habitat has teamed up with Directions for Living to adopt six families during the holiday season. On December 12th, our staff delivered the donations of gifts. It brings us so much joy to have made the holiday season truly magical for these families! Happy Holidays!



SAVE THE DATE



Presented By
CROWN
AUTOMOTIVE CHARITIES
Hawkins Family Foundation

4.5.24

THE VINOY RENAISSANCE HOTEL

LEARN MORE AT HABITATPWP.ORG/GALA

Habitat Celebrations

Staff Highlights

Promotions & New Hires

As our affiliate continues to grow, we have been looking to bring new staff members on in various positions to support our goal of serving more families. Join us in congratulating three employees on their recent promotions and welcoming six new hires to the team.



Promotions



Ralph Grau
Senior Permitting
Project Manager



Brian Hanratty
Permitting Project
Manager



Bryan Brantley
Field Supervisor 1

New Hires



Debbie Medley
Chief Financial Officer



Katie Rockman
Director of Development



Ashraf Ramis
Pre-Construction Project
Manager



Alisa Johnson
Senior Field
Supervisor



Daniel Schmaelzle
Senior Field
Supervisor



Gregory Collins
Construction Crew
Member



Stan Renbarger
Construction Crew
Member



Upcoming Events

The Roberts Family Home Dedication
December 15th | 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
9372 Teak St., New Port Richey, FL 34654

Longlake Preserve Groundbreaking
December 20th | 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
1756 S M.L.K. Jr Ave. Clearwater, FL 33756

The Cruz Family Home Dedication
December 15th | 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM
15234 Omaha St., Hudson, FL 34667

Double Dedication: Aguirre-Ortega & Johnson Families
December 21st | 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
13135 117th St. N., Largo, FL, 33778

**Habitat Admin Offices, ReStores, and
Construction Sites will be closed starting
December 22nd until January 3rd.**

how to get involved

	Apply
	Donate
	Volunteer
	Shop
	Advocate

Habitat for Humanity | **ReStore**
of Pinellas & West Pasco Counties

**12 DAYS OF
HOLIDAY
SALES**

DECEMBER 8TH - 21ST



visit us

Clearwater ReStore & Truist Education Center
13355 49th St N, Suite B Clearwater, FL 33762

Administrative HQ
14010 Roosevelt Blvd, Suite 704 Clearwater, FL 33762

(727) 536-4755 | habitatpwp.org

New Port Richey ReStore
6431 US Highway 19 North New Port Richey, FL

St. Pete Resource Center
1350 22nd St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

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