



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Pinellas &
West Pasco Counties

The Community Builder
SUMMER 2021 EDITION



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A Note from Mike Sutton, President & CEO



Dear Habitat supporters – you are receiving the first edition of a monthly newsletter we’ve created, specifically designed for you – our Advisory Board Members, Board of Directors, Emeritus Trustees, Legacy Society Members, Community Builders Society Members, and major donors. My hope is to keep you better informed of the work Habitat is doing, while also providing you a sneak peek on upcoming projects and work.

Due to COVID-19, families around our community have been forced to consider the fundamental importance of home – of having safe, decent and affordable shelter. Many realized that housing is essential. Housing provides safety, stability and shelter. Housing is also an integral part of healthcare. The ability to stay ‘safer at home’ or ‘shelter in place’ relies on the condition that you have a safe and adequate place to shelter in. During these unprecedented times, the priority to serve more families is at the forefront. Despite the pandemic, Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco remained committed to the mission. We partnered with 61 families in our community through the homeownership program this past year. In 2021, we will build 65 new homes.

In order to continue to move the mission forward, the organization’s vision focuses on building community impact through serving more families and increasing education opportunities; building sector impact through partnering to increase shelter access; building societal impact to inspire action to end poverty housing and building a sustainable organization. In July 2021, a new three-year strategic plan will launch to keep the organization focused on these priorities. These pillars continue to be at the forefront of every decision we make. The deeper and wider Habitat for Humanity can go in the Pinellas and West Pasco region, the deeper the community impact.

Building Community Impact

In building community impact, the organization will strive to improve housing conditions for those we serve, locally and globally through our title program. On the local level, Habitat homeownership partner families must demonstrate a need for adequate shelter, the ability to pay back a zero-interest loan and willingness to partner with Habitat to invest 350 to 450 “sweat equity” hours.

The education component of the homeownership program is at the core of a homeowner’s success. The Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco program’s curriculum requires all homeowner candidates to complete a minimum of 20 homebuyer education classes, with a heavy focus on financial literacy. In the coming months, a new education center will be built to enhance the program, proving a first-rate educational experience. Continuing to increase and strengthen our education curriculum will allow for a deeper impact on our homeowners, their children and the community in which they live.

Building Sector Impact

To build sector impact, the organization will focus on partnering to increase shelter access for deserving individuals and families in our community. Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties will continue to develop and advance services, financing, policies and procedures to increase the number of families served.

Building Societal Impact

Mobilization of volunteers and community partners remains a key component to inspiring action to end poverty housing. With ongoing education on the cost of home and the impact a stable and affordable home can have on a family, awareness of the Habitat mission will continue. Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco will work with community partners to increase will mobilize volunteers and serve as a leading voice in affordable housing.

Building a Sustainable Organization

Building a sustainable organization has been an ongoing priority for Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco. To do so, the focus remains on improving our capacity to mobilize financial and human resources and steward them faithfully. Expanding the ReStore presence and reach with increased visibility will be a key element to this pillar. We remain committed to our staff and their development to give them the tools to build homes, communities and hope alongside our volunteers, homeowners and supporters.

Mike Sutton, President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties



our mission

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

New Admin HQ & Plans for Education Center

Our affiliate recently announced the opening of its new administrative headquarters near the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport. The move of administrative staff from the Clearwater ReStore space allows for a new Homeowner Education Center & Design Showroom to be built at the location on 49th Street in Clearwater. Habitat celebrated with Amplify Clearwater, elected officials, sponsors and staff with an open house on May 14th, 2021.

The new administrative office at 14010 Roosevelt Blvd, Suite 704 in Clearwater features a dedicated closing room, sponsored by Investors Title & Settlement Services and the Fishman Family Foundation. LivingHR and Create & Co. partnered to sponsor the “LivingHR Collaboration Zone”, a space for big ideas and creativity for the staff. The Tamara DeBose Conference Room honors current Habitat Board Member and Habitat Homeowner of the same name, and was originally dedicated at the previous location in 2016.



Jeffrey and Brandy Fishman, Joni Holt of Investors Title & Settlement Services cut the ribbon of the new Closing Room.



The LivingHR and Create & Co. sponsored Collaboration Zone for big ideas and hope.

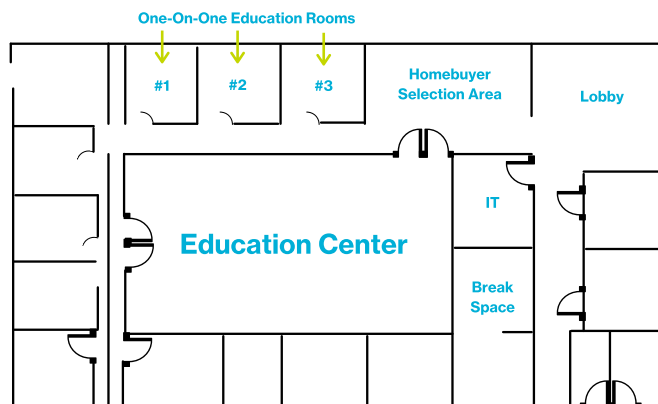


Tamara DeBose cuts the ribbon of the new conference room dedicated in her name.

Education Center & Home Design Showroom

Homeowner education is at the core of the Habitat program. The decision to move the administrative offices was made with our homeowners in mind. The addition of a dedicated education center will enhance our program by providing a first-rate educational experience for our homeowners and our devoted instructors. The space will incorporate flexible furniture and space to accommodate a variety of learning activities. Anticipated completion date is Fall 2021.

The new Education Center will also feature a Home Design Showroom. The showroom will provide a curated space for homeowners to meet with the Habitat construction team to visualize and discuss various design options for their new home. Homeowners will be able to pick paint colors, see a model mockup of their kitchen cabinets, get hands-on with other materials and view their floor plans.



New Pasco Location Secured; Extended Hours



We have executed a lease on a new location for the New Port Richey ReStore. Vanderbilt Square is located at 6431 US Hwy 19 in New Port Richey, right at the gateway to Downtown NPR. Our new 11,052 sq foot location is located next door to a Harbor Freight Tools and shares a parking lot with Burger King, Wing House, and a 24-hour crossfit gym. The traffic count will increase from about 5,000 cars per day to more than 63,000. Over the next few months, we will begin a build out process. Our team will continue to operate out of the Palm Harbor location until we approach a grand opening.

In order to better serve our shoppers and donors, we have extended the hours of operations at both the Clearwater and Palm Harbor locations. Learn more at habitatpwp.org/restore.

Clearwater: 13355 49th St N, Ste B
Monday - Saturday: 8 AM - 6 PM

Palm Harbor: 31541 US Highway 19 North
Monday - Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM

Board of Directors

Incoming Board Members

Our affiliate will soon announce four new additions to the Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas & West Pasco Board of Directors. These four individuals will begin their first term as a board member on July 1st, 2021.

- **Caprice Edmond – Pinellas County School Board, Single Member District 7**
- **Dana Mayo – Founding Member & Executive Managing Director, Hunt Capital Partners, LLC**
- **Lynn Skelton – Owner, ProSource of Port Richey**
- **George Spowart – Chief Marketing Officer, Red Rover**



Caprice Edmond



Dana Mayo



Lynn Skelton



George Spowart

Our organization will also be thanking two retiring board members: [Tracy West, Tournament Director for the Valspar Tournament](#), and [Ellen Hirsch De Haan, Attorney](#). Tracy has served 7 years on the Habitat board and will term out on June 30, 2021. Ellen and her husband are relocating to Colorado. She has served 5 years on the Habitat board. Both women have been instrumental in Habitat's growth and ability to serve families in our community over the years.



Tracy West



Ellen Hirsch De Haan

Board of Directors

2021 Slate of Officers

Our Board of Directors recently elected a new slate of officers to begin their service on July 1st, 2021. These individuals will serve on the Executive Committee of the Board for 1 year, with the Chairman serving in a two-year role.

- **Chairman – Brandon Brayboy**
- **Vice Chairman – Frank Starkey**
- **Treasurer – Heather Ford**
- **Secretary – Ken Ginel**
- **Immediate Past Chair - Alfredo Anthony**
- **At-Large - Patti Templeton**
- **At-Large - Rebecca Watson**
- **At-Large - Bruce Terwilliger**
- **Mike Sutton (CEO, non-voting)**

Thank You to Our Chairman



Alfredo Anthony

Chairman of the Board: 2019 - 2021

On behalf of our staff, donors and homeowners, we thank Alfredo Anthony for his leadership in his two years of service. We are grateful for your outstanding dedication and leadership to the Habitat mission.



Save the Date

700th Home Build Milestone

Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco will celebrate our 700th Home Build in Pinellas Park on August 30th, 2021.

Aurora Sakers and her teenage daughter, Ash, are the 700th family to partner with Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco Counties. This August, they will become homeowners in Teller Estates, the affiliate's largest development to date located in Pinellas Park.

"Home is where you build the foundations of a brighter future with your family".

– Aurora Sakers, Habitat Homeowner Candidate

Having moved countless times because of unmanageable rents and rental increases, Aurora found herself paying far too much of her income to rent.

"All of the relocating has caused a lot of instability and uncertainties as to where will we live. I have had to work a full-time (with overtime) and a part-time job to barely meet the bare minimum of our needs. I am so blessed to have Ash help so much around the house, but because of the workload I can rarely be home to spend time with her."

Earlier this year, Aurora was accepted into the Habitat Homeowner Program. "I was at work when Jack called and told me the wonderful news and I cried. I was so speechless! The feeling of excitement, peacefulness, and a sense of relief was all I had."

"I will have a sense of accomplishment knowing that my forever home is mine. I will never again have to move because the lease is expired or has gone up in price. This will ease the worries of any instability issues."

RSVP online and learn more about event details and sponsorship opportunities at habitatpwp.org/700.

700th home

Habitat for Humanity
of Pinellas & West Pasco Counties

08.30.21 @ 9:00 AM

6290 67th Way N Pinellas Park



Dedications & Events

Thursday, June 3rd at 6 pm | BBQ & Crafts (Cocktails That Is)
Kozuba & Sons Distillery 1960 5th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712



Friday, June 4th at 9 am | The Dennis Family
1012 Newton Avenue South, St. Petersburg
Sponsored by "Friends of USF" - Les & Pam Muma; Kate Tiedemann & Ellen Cotton; Jeffrey & Brandy Fishman; Terry & Carol Mullane; Mike Sutton; Jordan & Michelle Myers; Marc Ostroff; Camila Gonzalez; and Todd St. John-Fulton.

Friday, June 4th at 12 pm | The Habicast: Pride Edition
Tune in on Facebook and YouTube

Tuesday, June 15th at 10 am | The Pedigo Family
6324 67th Way North, Pinellas Park
Sponsored by MarineMax



Wednesday, June 16th at 9 am | The Snipes Family
6312 67th Way North, Pinellas Park
"The House that Law Built": Law Office of Michael A. Ziegler, P.L., Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen, Silberman Law, Law Offices of Powers Sellers & Finkelstein, Law Offices of Koch & Hoffman, P.A., Wetherington Hamilton, PA, Johnny D. Drizis, PA, The Law Firm of Vanessa L. King, Lewis Longman Walker, Goldman Wetzel, and Everist Tillman, PLLC.

Saturday, June 19th at 9 am | The Smith Family
5330 Van Doren Avenue, New Port Richey
Sponsored by Banning Lumber



Monday, June 21st | The Habicast: Featuring Kevin Dorsey
Tune in on Facebook and YouTube

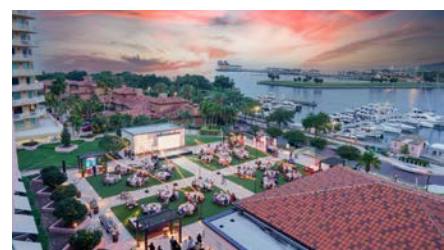
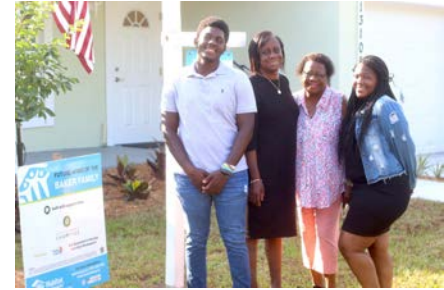
Tuesday, June 22nd at 9 am | The Clarke Family
510 Braginton Street, Clearwater
Sponsored by Hooters



Monday, June 28th at 9 am - The Caldwell Family
12936 Henry Court, Largo
Sponsored with proceeds from Havana Nights



Monday, July 12th at 9 am | Double Dedication: Jordan & Liham Families
12780 Dan Place, Largo & 12770 Dan Place, Largo



visit us

Clearwater ReStore & Construction HQ (Mailing Address)
13355 49th St N, Suite B Clearwater, FL 33762

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

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

(727) 536-4755 | habitatpwp.org

Palm Harbor ReStore
31541 US Highway 19 North Palm Harbor, FL 34684

New Port Richey ReStore COMING SOON!
6431 US Highway 19 North New Port Richey, FL

@HabitatPinellasPasco

@HabitatPWP #HabitatPinellasPasco