



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
of Pinellas &  
West Pasco Counties

**The Community Builder**  
FALL 2021 | VOL. 7



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# A Note from Mike Sutton, President & CEO



Dear Habitat supporters – you are receiving the seventh 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. The goal of this exclusive communication piece is to keep you better informed of current projects and future initiatives.

As we wrap up another calendar year, I am taking the time to reflect on the many accomplishments our affiliate has been able to achieve. In 2021, Habitat will complete 70 homes for deserving families throughout Pinellas and West Pasco Counties, compared to 61 the past year - no small feat while adjusting through a pandemic. For the fourth consecutive year, Pinellas & West Pasco is ranked as the second largest affiliate in the Habitat network, based on new home construction.

Thanks to the community recognition, we are proud recipients of the One Tampa Bay award by the Tampa Bay Business Journal, Culture Creator Award by Amplify Clearwater, and a number of others. Our team of 70 employees is ready for another successful year, and we look forward to seeing Habitat supporters on the build sites, at events, and welcoming more families home in the new year.



## Our impact as of today:

**922**

families served

**721**

homes built

**201**

a brush with kindness projects

**595**

homes funded overseas

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

Sincerely,

**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.

## Signature Event

# Education Center Ribbon Cutting

On Wednesday, November 10th, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties proudly celebrated the ribbon cutting of the new Truist Foundation Homeowner Education Center. Education is the cornerstone of the Habitat Homeownership Program, and the buildout of this space will allow for greater impact throughout the community through homeownership education.

The new center located inside the Habitat Clearwater ReStore, features a large interactive classroom sponsored by Truist Foundation, a Homebuyer Selection Area sponsored by Tibbetts Lumber CO., and Breakout Rooms sponsored by Republic Bank Foundation, Marion Rich, and the Trepani Family. The transformation of the space allows for more enhancements to the ReStore, as it includes a space for available for purchase cabinets and vanities through a partnership with Lakeland Liquidation.

The transformation of the Education Center will be essential to the homeowners that come through the Habitat program. Habitat Board Members and Homeowners, Tamara DeBose and Davisha Earley, shared with attendees the importance of homeowner education during Wednesday's grand opening.

President and CEO, Mike Sutton, says "The decision to move the administrative offices earlier this year 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."

**“ Homeowner education is at the core of the Habitat program. ”**

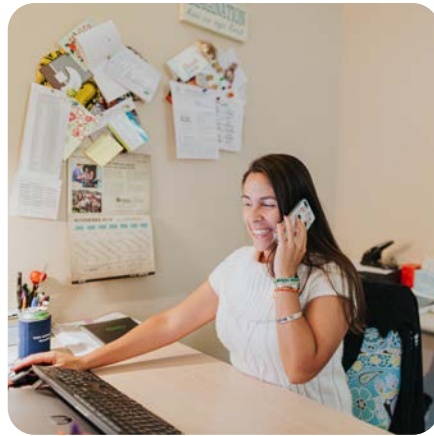
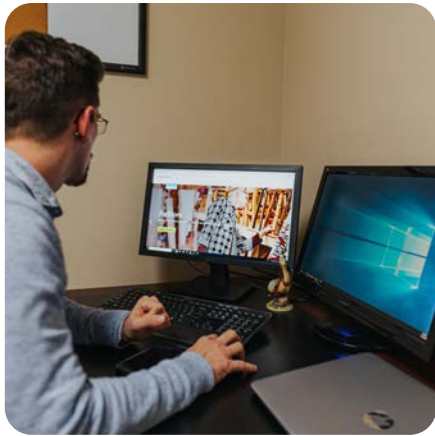


## Administration Accomplishments

### Minimum Wage Jump

In 2020, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties increased its minimum wage from \$13.50 an hour to \$15. Now we are doing more. By 2024, our hourly rate will increase to \$18. "Our board of directors and executive leadership team see this as an opportunity to lead the way for nonprofits to do our part to ensure our talent is making a livable wage," said Mike Sutton, president and CEO.

“ If we allow nonprofits to invest in their people and infrastructure, imagine the impact we could have.”  
- Mike Sutton



## Homeownership Program

### 12 new candidates accepted this month



When a homeowner candidate is accepted into the program, it has been customary for them to receive their acceptance news via phone call from Jack Shanks, Senior VP of Programs. A tradition our president and CEO, Mike Sutton brought from his time with a Texas affiliate, has taken off at Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco.

Recently, we have begun to orchestrate surprise meetings with our newest candidates and the reactions are both emotional and inspiring! Our team works with the individual directly or with their employer to set up a meeting to "complete final paperwork". Instead of paperwork, these individuals are surprised with a special certificate recognizing their hard work to be accepted into the program.

## Community Leaders Build Day

Roughly two dozen leaders from several Pinellas County communities, including Clearwater, Largo, Dunedin, Oldsmar, and Indian Rocks Beach, recently convened on a newly mapped side street in Pinellas Park, but not for a legislative meeting. Pinellas officials gathered on 67th Way North on Oct. 29 for Habitat for Humanities of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties Elected Officials Volunteer Build Day.

“Through conversations with local elected officials, we discussed how to bring everyone together to talk about affordable home ownership,” Sutton said during the three-hour session, which included painting, planting and other beautification projects and concluded with a lunchtime roundtable discussion on the topic. “We sent invites to all state and local elected officials, and we have about 25 here today helping us work on this house, so I think the response was extremely positive. It’s really neat to see everyone coming together regardless of where we’re building the house.”

Advocacy is a key pillar for the Habitat for Humanity organization. Our affiliate is making a further commitment and investment advocating for the advancement of affordable homeownership in our community. Through advocacy, Habitat seeks to influence policy and promote affordability among the broader housing continuum.



## Staff Expansion

### New Hires

As our affiliate continues to grow, we have been worked to bring new staff members on in various positions to support our goal of serving more families. We are excited to have approached 70 employees who are dedicated to advancing the Habitat mission.

Join us in welcoming seven new hires to the Habitat team, just this past month:

**Devin West**  
Development Officer

**John Mezzacappa**  
Field Supervisor 2

**Mark Wigley**  
Field Supervisor 2



# Community Partnerships

## CEO Build - *upcoming!*

In an effort to bring community leaders together for a common cause, Habitat launched the CEO Build, where leaders will work together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Honorary Chairs, Mindy Grossman (President & CEO of WW) and Bill Brand (CEO of Rue21) are working in partnership with Habitat and media partner Tampa Bay Business & Wealth Magazine for a successful build. Currently 26 business executives are committed to a volunteer day on the Feaster family home. Latrice Feaster is a single mother of two who is very grateful to be working towards her dream of homeownership.

### Committed Leaders include:

**Bill Brand**  
CEO of Rue21 (Honorary Co-Chair)

**Mindy Grossman**  
President & CEO of WW (formerly Weight Watchers) (Honorary Co-Chair)

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

**John Barrett**  
President & Chief Executive Officer of First Citrus Bank

**Bridgette Bello**  
CEO & Publisher of Tampa Bay Business & Wealth Magazine

**Jason Clement**  
Founder & CEO of The Sports Facilities Companies

**Ed Droste**  
Chairman of Provident Management

**Jeffrey Fishman**  
President of Investors Title

**Lisa Faller**  
President of FKQ Advertising & Marketing

**Susan Crockett**  
President & CEO of Ruth Eckerd Hall

**Melissa Seixas**  
Florida State President of Duke Energy

**Tommy Inzina**  
President & CEO of BayCare

**Tracy West**  
Tournament Director of Valspar Championship

**Leo "LJ" Govoni**  
CEO of Big Storm Brewery & Distillery

**Neil Kiefer**  
CEO of Hooters Management Corporation

**Kevin Hawkins**  
CEO of MidAtlantic Finance & Owner of Crown Automotive

**Anthony Leo**  
CEO of First Home Bank

**Frank Musolino**  
CEO of Power Design

**Steve Raney**  
Chairman & CEO of Raymond James Bank

**Keri Higgins-Bigelow**  
Founder & CEO of livingHR

**John Strong**  
Chairman & CEO of Bankers Financial Corporation

**Ray Ferrara**  
CEO of ProVise Management Group

**Elodie Dorso**  
President & CEO of Evara Health

**Chip Reeves**  
CEO & President of Beach Bank

**Dan Doyle, Jr.**  
CEO of DEX Imaging

**Patrick Hwu, MD**  
CEO of Moffitt Cancer Center

**Steve Riordan**  
CEO of Kozuba & Sons Distillery

**Randy Ware**  
Founder & CEO of WestCMR



## Honorary Chairs

**Mindy Grossman**  
President & CEO of WW (formerly Weight Watchers) and former CEO of HSN

**Bill Brand**  
CEO of Rue21 and Habitat for Humanity International Board Member

## Media Partner



To reserve your spot, please contact Mike Sutton at [msutton@habitatpwp.org](mailto:msutton@habitatpwp.org).



# Dedications & Events

**Friday, December 10th @ 9 am**

Walker Home Dedication  
12760 Dan Place, Largo

**Friday, December 17th @ 9 am**

Christman Home Dedication  
6313 67th Way N., Pinellas Park

**Monday, December 20th @ 9 am**

Quarterman Home Dedication  
6279 67th Way N., Pinellas Park

**Tuesday, December 21st @ 9 am - 10 am**

Dean Home Dedication  
1819 Englewood Ave., Tarpon Springs

**December 24th - 31st**

Christmas Holiday  
Affiliate Closed

## Strategic Pillars

	<i>Apply</i>
	<i>Donate</i>
	<i>Volunteer</i>
	<i>Shop</i>
	<i>Advocate</i>

## Save the Date: Signature Events

**Roaring 20's Prohibition Party - Spring Gala**

**April 1st, 2022 | 6 PM – 9 PM**

The Vinoy® Renaissance St. Petersburg  
501 5th Ave NE, St. Petersburg



### 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](http://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

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