



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

**The Community Builder**  
WINTER 2023 | VOL. 18



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# A Note from Mike Sutton, President & CEO



*Dear Habitat Supporter,*

Welcome to the eighteenth 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.**

I want to thank our generous supporters for an impactful 2022. Because of your support, Habitat has served 790 families and are on the way to #800 as we kick off 2023! Here's a snapshot of affiliate successes:

- Habitat has built 66 new homes over the past 12 months!
- The affiliate's impact was recognized by several organizations with community awards including:
  - Once again recognized as a One Tampa Bay honoree by the Tampa Bay Business Journal
  - Amplify Clearwater's Nonprofit Excellence Award
  - Pinellas Park Chamber of Commerce's Nonprofit of the Year
  - Greater Pasco Chamber of Commerce's Service Organization of the Year
- We received the Energy Star Market Award for our energy savings construction techniques.
- We reached the \$3M tithe milestone this year and have now built more than 700 homes internationally.
- After four consecutive years ranked as the second largest affiliate based on new home construction, out of 1,000 affiliates within the Habitat network, we ended FY2023 with 67 homes completed, making us the largest affiliate in the network for the year!
- We've grown our staff to 74 individuals all bringing a wide range of diversity & backgrounds to the table and focused on meeting the goals of our organization.
- We opened our new New Port Richey ReStore location!

As we embark on a new year, I wish you and your family a blessed 2023. Thank you for your ongoing partnership. Together, we will build homes, communities and hope.

Sincerely,

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

**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.

# Home for the Holidays

## Habitat Dedication

### Four Families Receive Their Keys Just in Time for the Holidays

On December 22nd, just days before Christmas, four deserving families settled into their new homes in Largo and St. Petersburg, thanks to Habitat for Humanity. The Brown, Masterton, Shaw, and Finnissee families each volunteered over 350 sweat equity hours and have taken 32 homebuyer education classes to help prepare them for homeownership. Now, these families own their own home with a 0% interest loan, keeping their mortgage affordable. For many years to come, these families will have a safe and stable home to celebrate the holidays in with their children.

One of these homeowners, Jomease Brown, and her daughters, were surprised with a very special Christmas gift provided by her sponsor, Republic Bank. When Jomease opened her front door for the first time, she was delighted to find a decorated Christmas tree with gifts sitting in her new living room. Because of the lack of space and the high price of a Christmas Tree, Jomease was not planning to put one up this year. The family was extremely grateful to Republic Bank for providing them with their very own Christmas miracle.



## Holiday Celebration

### Bingham Family Celebrates First Christmas in Habitat Home



Desheka Bingham and her two children, Caitlyn and Kannon, are spending their first holiday season in their Habitat home after closing on it in May 2022. Last month, we visited them in their new home - with a gingerbread kit and fun!

Now more than ever, having a place to call home is vital to our health and safety. For Habitat homeowner partners like the Bingham family, home means providing their family a safe and affordable place to live. Children are the first to benefit from living in a stable, secure home. Like Caitlyn and Kannon, Habitat homeowner children have a brighter future - benefitting from better health, having fewer behavioral problems and performing better in school.

# Community Partnerships

## Target Circle

### Habitat Featured in Target Circle Partner Program

This quarter, we're featured in Target Circle™ Community Giving! Place votes for us in your Target App.

Here's how:

Step 1: Choose "My Target" in the Target app

Step 2: Tap on "Target Circle™"

Step 3: Select "Vote for nonprofits"

Step 4: Find "Habitat For Humanity of Pinellas" & vote!

# Help support us with Target Circle.

## Vote by March 31.



## Homeownership Program

### 11 New Candidate Families Accepted Last Month

When a homeowner candidate is accepted into the program, a surprise meeting is set up at our administration offices to welcome the new homeowner candidate with the exciting news. This week, they attended their first homebuyer education class: "Welcome to Habitat". This class teaches them about the Habitat program and what their journey towards homeownership will look like.

The journey begins for these families...





## Holiday Celebration

# Homeowner Candidate Holiday Party

It's been over two years since our affiliate has hosted a Homeowner Candidate Holiday Party due to the pandemic. This year, the party returned bigger and better than ever! HOC's gathered together for a spaghetti dinner, arts & crafts, and family portraits. They were even surprised with a mortgage burning (or rather, shredding!) ceremony with three of our current Habitat homeowners. This ceremony gave hope to all of the families in the program, showing them that their dream is possible and they too will own their own home and one day pay off their entire mortgage.



## ReStore Donations

# Pick-Up Pirates

Ahoy Mateys! Gasparilla is approaching quickly, so get ready to fire the cannons because the Habitat ReStore "Pick-Up Pirates" are ready to pick up your donations for free! Just scan the QR code or call the Clearwater and New Port Richey ReStores at (727) 209-2199 to schedule your pick-up!



 **Habitat for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>  
of Pinellas & West Pasco Counties

**ReStore**

*Pick - Up Pirates!*

Do you have any new or gently used home furnishings you would like to donate to Habitat? Scan the QR code or call the ReStore to schedule a contactless pick-up and our "Pick-Up Pirates" will come and collect your treasures from your home for free!



**(727) 209-2199**



**THURSDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 2**  
 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**Grand Ballroom**  
 Feather Sound Country Club  
 2201 Feather Sound Drive



Shop a local vendor market, network with friends and community members and bid on a variety of one of a kind artistic shoes! Sip and shop while supporting the affordable homeownership dreams of a single mom and her family.

\$40 for Members | \$50 for Non-Members  
*\*includes event entry and (2) beverage tickets*

*More details on the event can be found at*  
[habitatforhumanityofpinellascounty-bloom.kindful.com/e/sipshopshoes2023](https://habitatforhumanityofpinellascounty-bloom.kindful.com/e/sipshopshoes2023)



**HABITAT'S DISCO BALL**  
**03.31.23 AT 7 PM**  
**THE VINOY RENAISSANCE HOTEL**

PRESENTED BY



**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW!**  
**VISIT [HABITATPWP.ORG/DISCO-BALL](https://HABITATPWP.ORG/DISCO-BALL) FOR MORE INFO**



## Milestone Dedication

# 800<sup>th</sup> home

Celebrate the **800th** home built in our community with an **\$800 donation!**

Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas & West Pasco Counties' 800th home dedication is approaching quickly. With only 10 houses left to build, we will be celebrating this amazing milestone in March 2023.



donate today at  
[habitatpwp.org/800thhome](https://habitatpwp.org/800thhome).



*The Clayton Family*

## 2nd Annual CEO Build

# CEO BUILD



**leaders working together**  
building homes, communities, and hope.

Last year, 55 CEOs from the Tampa Bay Area took part in our inaugural CEO Build. The build was a major success and helped provide the Middlebrooks family with a safe and affordable home.

The CEO Build is back for year two and sponsorship opportunities are now available! We have over 50 CEO's committed to serving another family in our community.

*Will you join them?*

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



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

# CEO BUILD

leaders working together  
building homes, communities, and hope.

## 2023 Honorary Chairs



**Mindy Grossman**  
Partner & Chair of  
Consello Group, Former  
CEO of WW and HSNi



**Bill Brand**  
CEO of  
Rue21



**Ryan Ross**  
President of  
Neiman Marcus

Media Partner



## Thank You to Our Committed Leaders as of 1/4/23

### \$10,000 Challenge Level

**Bill Brand (Honorary Co-Chair)**  
CEO of Rue21 and Habitat for  
Humanity International Board Member

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

**John Couris**  
President & CEO of Tampa General Hospital

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

### \$2,500 Founder Level

**Marc Banning**  
CEO of Banning Lumber

**Ronde Barber**  
General Chairman of Copperhead Charities

**John Barrett**  
President & CEO of First Citrus Bank

**David Bennett**  
CEO of Pinellas REALTOR® Organization  
& Central Pasco REALTOR® Organization

**Ravi Chari, MD**  
President of HCA Healthcare West Florida

**Ronald Christaldi**  
Tampa Managing Partner and  
President & CEO of Shumaker Advisors

**Jason Clement**  
Founding Partner & CEO of Sports Facility Companies

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

**Bill Cronin**  
President & CEO of Pasco EDC

**Thomas Del Zoppo**  
CEO of New Hotel Collection Group

**David Deno**  
CEO of Bloomin Brands, Inc.

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

**Ed Droste**  
Chairman of Provident Management Corporation

**Elizabeth Dvorak**  
CEO of Workscapes

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

**Ray Ferrara**  
Executive Chairman of ProVise Management Group

**Jeffrey Fishman**  
President of Investors Title & Settlement Services

**Vincent Forese**  
President & CEO of Link-Systems International

**Wendy Gattis**  
CEO of DITEK Corporation

**Bill Goede**  
Tampa Bay President of Bank of America

**Robert Glaser**  
President & CEO of Smith & Associates Real Estate

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

**Mindy Grossman (Honorary Co-Chair)**  
Partner & Chair of Consello Group, Former CEO WW & HSNi

**Russ Hallenbeck**  
CEO of Tibbetts Lumber Company

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

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

**Dr. Patrick Hwu**  
President & CEO of Moffitt Cancer Center

**Neil Kiefer**  
CEO of HMC Hospitality Group, Inc.

**Ken LaRoe**  
CEO, Chairman, and Founder of Climate First Bank

**Brett McGill**  
President & CEO of MarineMax

**Brooke Miranda**  
President & CEO of Sunshine State Economic Development  
Corporation

**Robin Moch**  
Partner at M.E. Wilson Company

**Frank Musolino**  
CEO of Power Design

**T. Corey Neil**  
President & CEO of The Bank of Tampa

**Karl Nurse**  
President of Bay Tech Label

**Amanda Payne**  
President & CEO of Amplify Clearwater

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

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

**Bill Roberti**  
Managing Director of Alvarez & Marsal

**Elliott Ross**  
President of The Ross Realty Group

**Ryan Ross (Honorary Co-Chair)**  
President of Neiman Marcus

**Kuleen Shah**  
Founder of Connecting Tampa Bay

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

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

**Brian Van Slyke**  
Regional President of Kolter Urban LLC

**Randy Ware**  
Founder & CEO of WestCMR

**Tracy West**  
President of Copperhead Charities and Valspar  
Championship Tournament Director

**Tom Zernick**  
President of Bay First National Bank

[habitatpwp.org/CEObuild](https://habitatpwp.org/CEObuild)

Construction Site Sponsor



[habitatpwp.org/CEObuild](https://habitatpwp.org/CEObuild)





# Upcoming Events

## The Henderson Family Home Dedication

January 16th | 9 AM - 9:30 AM  
1108 Tangerine St., Clearwater

## The Allen Family Home Dedication

January 16th | 11 AM - 11:30 AM  
3639 Fairfield Ave. S., St. Petersburg

## Cup of Joe with the CEO: Pasco

January 18th | 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
Oasis Coffee Spot

## The King Family Home Dedication

January 25th | 9 AM - 9:30 AM  
1827 13th Ave. S., St. Petersburg

## The McMillian Family Home Dedication

January 30th | 9 AM - 9:30 AM  
2026 42nd St. S., St. Petersburg

## The Escobar Family Home Dedication

January 31st | 9 AM - 9:30 AM  
3167 70th Ave. N., St. Petersburg

how to get involved

	Apply
	Donate
	Volunteer
	Shop
	Advocate



 <b>ReStore</b>	<b>CLEARWATER</b> 13355 49th Street North, Suite B	<b>NEW PORT RICHEY</b> 6431 US Highway 19 North
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### 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](http://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

@HabitatPinellasPasco

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