



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Pinellas &
West Pasco Counties

The Community Builder
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A Note from Mike Sutton, President & CEO



Dear Habitat Supporter,

Welcome to the twentieth 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.

This March we closed out the month with a huge milestone - our 800th Home Dedication. We gathered with homeowners, volunteers, donors and community partners to celebrate the historic day. The Clayton family received the keys to their brand new home in the Lealman community in St. Petersburg.

Habitat for Humanity's annual gala fundraiser also took place at the end of last month and was a groovy success, with over 500 attendees hitting the dance floor in their best disco attire to support our mission of providing safe and affordable housing to those in need. Throughout our presentation, we updated attendees with highlights from 2023 and what is to come in the future for our affiliate.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we were able to raise over \$852,000 dollars, which will help us continue to build homes and hope for families in our community. The disco-themed evening was a true celebration of our organization's impact, and we're grateful to everyone who contributed to making it such a success.

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".

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.

Habitat Milestones

800th Home

Habitat Builds 800th Home in Our Community with the Clayton Family

On Friday, March 24th Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties celebrated the dedication of our 800th Habitat Homeowners, The Clayton Family! Brianna and her daughter Paisley received the keys to their new home with overwhelming support from the community.

In July of 2022, Brianna was accepted into the Habitat program. After completing over 350 sweat equity hours and 32 homebuyer education classes, Brianna signed her closing docs on March 23rd, less than a year from when she started the program. We are so proud of all of the hard work that this single mother has done to provide a safe and affordable space for herself and her daughter to thrive.

Over 120 community partners came together to sponsor this family's home. The Gramatica Family Foundation graciously provided the SIPS panels for the home and surprised Brianna and Paisley with a pair of Bucs tickets. Solar Bear generously donated and installed solar power onto the home, which will be a huge saving for the family. St. Petersburg College surprised Brianna with a \$1,000 scholarship so she can achieve her dream of receiving a degree.

Other partners included GFWC St. Petersburg Junior Woman's Club, Largo Cracker Quilters, Senator Marco Rubio, Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Anna Paulina Luna, Charlie Justice for Pinellas, Upper Tampa Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce with Kids Pedal Power, Feeding Tampa Bay, Pinellas County Government, Pipo's The Original Cuban Cafe, and Pinellas County Sheriff's Office as well as many other supporters in the community. Thank you all for your continuous support and for helping us celebrate this exciting milestone.



Habitat Fundraisers

Annual Gala

Habitat's Disco Ball Fundraiser is a Major Success

On Friday, March 31st, over 500 attendees gathered to support the Habitat mission at the sold-out Disco Ball gala presented by Crown Automotive Charities and the Hawkins Family Foundation. The event at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort took guests back in time to the 70s disco era in celebration of the Habitat mission. It was a groovy night for Habitat! One that heard live testimonials by Habitat Homeowner and Board Member, Davisha Earley. Those in attendance rallied behind former Habitat Board Chairman Jason Clement and his wife Janna, as they kicked us off with a \$50,000 donation. Thanks to the support of our Disco Ball sponsors, staff, volunteers, and supporters, over \$852,000 was raised to support the Habitat mission – a record.

\$852,000 RAISED BY HABITAT'S DISCO BALL



Community Partnerships

Valspar Championship

Valspar Championship Returns to Palm Harbor

On March 13th through the 19th, The Valspar Championship held its annual tournament at Innisbrook, A Salamander Golf & Spa Resort. The Valspar Championship has been a long-time supporter of Habitat. With eighth home sponsorships, sponsorships of our annual gala and golf tournament, as well as their CEO, Tracy West, participating in our annual CEO Build, the Valspar Championship remains one of Habitat's largest supporters.

All ticket proceeds for the Valspar Championship benefit local area charities through tournament host organization Copperhead Charities, where Habitat for Humanity is one of their top recipients. Since the tournament's inception in 1977, the event has raised over \$50 million for charities, primarily in the Tampa Bay area.

In addition to the monetary support that the Valspar Championship provides, the tournament is also one of our largest volunteer opportunities each year. Habitat Homeowner Candidates are able to sign up to volunteer at the Valspar concert each year, selling chairs and assisting with guidance to the parking lots. This one event alone brings in over 200 volunteers, which contributes to over 1,600 volunteer hours toward Homeowner Candidate's sweat equity. We are grateful for the tremendous support that the Valspar Championship provides and we look forward to many more years of partnership.



Habitat Volunteers

CEO Build

Habitat Hosts Three CEO Build Days

This month, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties hosted the final of three build volunteer days for this year's Second Annual CEO Build. Over 30 of the Tampa Bay area CEOs came out to volunteer alongside future homeowners Alex Diaz and Christina Gonzales on their home site in the Lealman community of St. Petersburg. Over the course of the three build days, the Tampa Bay leaders assisted with framing and painting of the home. This year's CEO Build will help provide a safe and affordable home for Alex, Christina, and their three children: Olivia, Jackson, and Vivian.



Team Build Day

90+ MarineMax GMs Volunteer with Habitat in Lealman

MarineMax has been a generous community partner of Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco for several years, having sponsored five Habitat homes for local families. On Wednesday, March 8th, 93 MarineMax regional managers from across the country gathered for the ultimate team build day - volunteering on their 6th sponsored home as well as some neighboring build sites in Lealman.

The large group of volunteers worked on over six homes in the neighborhood, assisting with priming, painting, window installation, and framing. The future homeowner of the MarineMax sponsored home, Karin Jimenez and her son Josiah, stopped by the build site to welcome the team. We look forward to seeing the MarineMax volunteers out again next year!



Habitat Celebrations

Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas & West Pasco Counties is proud to announce that we have been selected as one of sixty Tampa Bay area companies for this year's Best Places to Work in Tampa Bay, by the Tampa Bay Business Journal. The list of honorees provides a road map to Tampa Bay area companies that have made workplace culture, recruitment and employee retention a key pillar to their success.

TAMPA BAY BUSINESS JOURNAL



2023 BEST PLACES TO WORK

Here's how the process unfolded:

Nominations were accepted from the public, and employees at nominated companies were asked to complete an online survey by Quantum. Quantum Workplace employee surveys measure each company's culture, from compensation and benefits to trust in senior leadership. Responses from the surveys were compiled, evaluated and ranked by Quantum based on their composite score. Quantum's analytical tools then selected the top organizations in each size class (small, medium, large and extra large).

The results are quantitative, based on employee survey responses rather than a panel of outside judges.



Employees were asked to evaluate their employers on these areas:

- Team effectiveness
- Retention risk
- Alignment with goals
- Trust with coworkers
- Individual contribution
- Manager effectiveness
- Trust in senior leaders
- Feeling valued
- Work engagement
- People practices

Their answers were strictly confidential and anonymous.



Habitat Celebrations

Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties Earns 2023 ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year Award

Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas & West Pasco Counties is proud to announce that it has received the 2023 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

“At Habitat, we are committed to building safe and affordable homes for deserving families”, said Mike Sutton, president and CEO of Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco.

“Each Habitat home is home is ENERGY STAR rated, which allows our homeowner partners the peace of mind knowing their house is built to a high standard of construction for enhanced durability and a lifetime of memories.”



Each year, the ENERGY STAR program honors a select group of businesses and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in the transition to a clean energy economy. ENERGY STAR award winners lead their industries in the production, sale, and adoption of energy-efficient products, homes, buildings, services, and strategies. These efforts are essential to fighting the climate crisis, protecting public health, and creating a clean energy future for everyone.

Homeownership Program

12 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.

The journey begins for these families...





Upcoming Events

Cup of Joe with the CEO: Pasco

April 12th | 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
New Port Richey ReStore

The Cole Family Home Dedication

April 18th | 10 AM - 10:30 AM
2770 53rd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL

The Arias Family Home Dedication

April 13th | 9 AM - 9:30 AM
2797 52nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL

The Matthews Family Home Dedication

April 20th | 10:30 AM - 11 AM
673 Blanche. B. Littlejohn Trl, Clearwater, FL

The Brown Family Home Dedication

April 13th | 10 AM - 10:30 AM
2796 Grove Park Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL

Affordable Housing 101

April 20th | 12 PM - 1 PM
Online - Zoom

how to get involved

	Apply
	Donate
	Volunteer
	Shop
	Advocate



Habitat for Humanity
of Pinellas & West Pasco Counties

ReStore

CLEARWATER
13355 49th Street North, Suite B

NEW PORT RICHEY
6431 US Highway 19 North



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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