



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

**The Community Builder**  
MAY 2023 | VOL. 21



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# A Note from Mike Sutton, President & CEO



*Dear Habitat Supporter,*

Welcome to the twenty-first 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.

Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties is making a deep impact in our community. In the month of April alone, we set a new record by celebrating the completion of 10 homes. We are on our way to completing 75 homes in 2023, doing our part to address the need for affordable homeownership.

As we approach the end of our fiscal year, there is no shortage of ways to get involved with Habitat. I invite you to join us this month for any of the following events:

#### **Community Builders Breakfast - Pasco**

May 9th | 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM  
Spartan Manor - New Port Richey

#### **The Rodriguez Family Home Dedication**

May 10th | 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM  
1118 Carlton St., Clearwater, FL

#### **The Jimenez Family Home Dedication**

May 16th | 10 AM - 10:30 AM  
2791 Grove Park Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL

#### **Cup of Joe with the CEO: Pasco**

May 17th | 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
2770 53rd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL

#### **The Louch Family Home Dedication**

May 27th | 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM  
3610 14th Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL

#### **The Tomlinson Family Home Dedication**

May 27th | 10 AM - 10:30 AM  
3726 15th Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL

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 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.

# On the Road to 70 Homes

## April Home Dedications

### Habitat Celebrates Ten Home Dedications in April

The month of April brought 10 new homeowners into the Habitat fold, a record month for our affiliate. Last month's home dedications were celebrated with the Matthews, Pendleton, Diaz-Gonzales, Arias, Brown, Cole, Allen, Dan, Avila, and Roxbury families receiving their keys.



*Congratulations to these families!*

# Habitat Volunteers

## CEO Build

### Habitat Wraps Up Second Annual CEO Build

Last month, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties wrapped up its 2023 CEO Build with an event hosted at The Karol Hotel Vantage Rooftop Bar. Through the CEO Build, 55 CEOs have raised over \$160,000 and helped build alongside the future homeowners, the Diaz-Gonzales family. On Monday, April 24th, Alex Diaz and Christina Gonzales opened the door to their brand new Habitat Home for the very first time.

This home dedication was made extra special when Alex turned to Christina during his speech. “I know we are going to spend the rest of our lives together,” said Diaz, in front of a crowd of friends, family, CEOs and Habitat staff. “But there is one thing missing.” Alex then pulled out a ring and dropped to one knee to propose to the love of his life. Welcome home and congratulations to this deserving family!



## Women's Build Day

### TBBW Business Women of the Year Finalists Volunteer with Habitat

As the Nonprofit Partner for the Tampa Bay Business & Wealth Magazine’s Business Women Award Program, Habitat hosted a volunteer build day exclusively for the finalists on Friday, April 14th. Finalists worked alongside future homeowner, Cheetara Louch on her build site in St. Petersburg. Thank you to all the women who came out and painted with us!



# Community Partnerships

## Check Presentations

### Four Organizations Present Checks to Habitat Pinellas Pasco

Throughout the last month, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties was fortunate to be the recipient of four check presentations given by dedicated partners in our community that help make our mission possible.

On Tuesday, April 11th, MarineMax presented Habitat President and CEO, Mike Sutton, with a check for \$108,500 representing their upcoming home sponsorship with the Jimenez Family home. This is MarineMax's 6th home sponsorship with our affiliate. Thank you for your continued support!

Outdoor Craft and Game and The Kangaroo presented our affiliate with a \$2,500 donation on Saturday, April 15th to support our mission and the amazing families in our program who will earn the American Dream of homeownership. These funds were raised through Outdoor Craft and Game's Charity Game Ads program, where a portion of the ad sales from her game packages goes towards Habitat's mission. Thank you to these West Pasco businesses for their support.

Thank you so much to Subaru of Port Richey for their support of our mission. They presented us with a check for nearly \$11,000 from the #SubaruShareTheLove campaign after The Matthews Family Home dedication in Clearwater on April 20th.

Finally, on Monday, May 1st, we received a donation of \$5,000 from the ReliaQuest Bowl. We are proud and thankful to be one of the organizations this great bowl game chooses to support in the Tampa Bay community. We can't wait for the 2024 game at Ray Jay!



# Habitat Celebrations

## 2023 Best Places to Work

Nearly 900 people showed up Wednesday at George M. Steinbrenner Field in Tampa to celebrate workplaces they love. The Tampa Bay Business Journal's annual Best Places to Work program, now in its 17th year, comes at a time when business owners and employees across the Tampa Bay region are experiencing talent shortages. That makes turnover more costly than ever. The retention of good people is a critical priority. The 60 companies honored this year scored highest among all the employers participating in Omaha, Nebraska-based Quantum Workplace's annual employee engagement survey.

TAMPA BAY BUSINESS JOURNAL



## 2023 BEST PLACES TO WORK

The results are quantitative, based on survey responses from employees themselves rather than a panel of outside judges. The results are clear: The companies honored in 2023 invested heavily in their people by providing valuable perks and benefits, flexibility, remote work, good leadership, a fun culture and more.

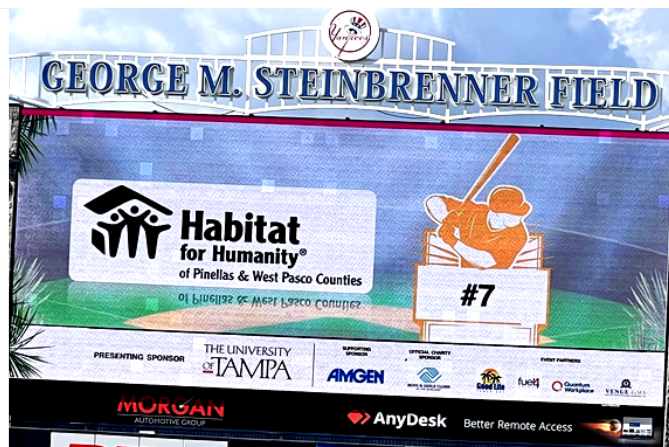
Each of the top 15 companies in four categories was honored at the stadium field level while teams gathered, partied and relaxed with food, drinks and games. Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco is grateful to have received #7 in the Large Category – 50-99 employees.



**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

## John 6:9 Award

Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas & West Pasco Counties was recognized at the 2023 Habitat Florida State Conference by Susan Yow, HFHI Director of Tithe & Global Village. Our affiliate was presented with the John 6:9 Award, recognizing the affiliate's lifetime tithe that totals more than \$3M+. We have built more than 719 homes internationally. Habitat Pinellas & West Pasco Counties becomes only the 13th affiliate to reach this milestone.

“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish. But what are they among so many people” – John 6:9.

“This world is filled with abundance...if bread is broken and shared, there is enough for all” - Walter Brueggemann, Old Testament scholar.



## Community Partners

### Target Circle Partner Program Results

The results are in! Target Circle voting helped us receive a share of Target's donation. Thanks to our community, we received 175,025 votes awarding Target funds in the amount of \$5,543.85 to our organization. Thank you to everyone who voted for Habitat! We appreciate your support of our affiliate and our mission.



# Habitat Celebrations

## Staff Expansion

### New Hires & Promotions

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 welcoming five new hires to the Habitat team and congratulating two employees on their recent promotions.

#### New Hires

**Jordan Tompkins**  
ReStore Associate I



#### Promotions



**William Washington**  
Site Supervisor I



**Mike DeMarco**  
Site Supervisor I



**Jayden Koepke**  
Site Supervisor II



## Homeownership Program

### 11 New Candidates Accepted Last Month



When a homeowner candidate is accepted into the program, a surprise meeting is set up resulting in reactions that 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. However, last month, we decided to surprise all of our new candidates at once! We had all nine families gather at our ReStore. Then, our President & CEO, Mike Sutton, revealed the amazing news that they had already been accepted into the program! [The journey begins for these families...](#)





# Upcoming Events

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how to get involved

	Apply
	Donate
	Volunteer
	Shop
	Advocate



of Pinellas & West Pasco Counties

**ReStore**

<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

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