



**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 twenty-sixth 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 2023. Because of your support, Habitat has served 866 families and is on the way to #900 as we kick off 2024! Here's a snapshot of affiliate successes:

- Habitat built 80 new homes in 2023!
- The affiliate's impact was recognized by several organizations with community awards including:
  - Recognized as a One Tampa Bay honoree by the Tampa Bay Business Journal for 5th consecutive year
  - Presented with the John 6:9 Award from Habitat International, recognizing the affiliate's lifetime tithe that totals more than \$3M+
  - Amplify Clearwater's 2023 Environmental Steward Award
  - Large Community Conscious Award at the 2023 Good 'Burger Awards
  - Tampa Bay Times Best of the Best Awards in the New Home Building category
- We received the Energy Star Partner of the Year Award for our energy saving construction techniques.
- We've grown our staff to 71 individuals all bringing a wide range of diversity & backgrounds to the table and focused on meeting the goals of our organization.

As we embark on a new year, I wish you and your family a blessed 2024. 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', written in a cursive style.

**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.

# 2024 CEO Build

Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties' third annual CEO Build is officially in full swing, having hosted its kick-off reception as well as its first official build day.

The 2024 CEO Build is Habitat's most successful CEO Build yet, with over 60 CEOs on this year's roster bringing in over \$200,000 to support the building of this year's CEO Build partner, Tangela Butler.

**2024 CEO BUILD**  
leaders working together  
building homes, communities, and hope.

## Kick-Off

### Habitat Hosts CEO Build Kick-Off Reception at The Sound in Clearwater

Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties 2024 CEO Build kicked off on January 5th at The Sound in Clearwater with a Styx and .38 Special concert. The event was presented by Duke Energy and in partnership with Ruth Eckerd Hall. Many of the CEOs gathered at the kick-off to meet Tangela Butler, this year's CEO Build homeowner partner, and to meet other CEOs participating in the build.



## Build Days

### 65 Tampa Bay Leaders Participate in Habitat's CEO Build Days

On January 19th, January 26th, and February 2nd, Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco hosted three 2024 CEO Build volunteer days at the Butler Family home build site in St. Petersburg. Over three weeks, 45 CEOs from the Tampa Bay area worked alongside future homeowner, Tangela Butler, and assisted with interior framing, window and door installation, SIPS tape application, and more.

Before beginning their volunteer work in the morning, the CEOs were able to meet Tangela and hear her story about her journey from homelessness to homeownership. In a short few months, Tangela will receive the keys to her brand new forever home where she will be able to make many family memories with her two sons and her grandchildren.



**65 CEOs and business leaders joined together to raise more than \$200,000 to build a safe and affordable home for a deserving family at the third annual CEO Build.**



## Thank You to Our 2024 CEO Build Participants

**Lee Arnold**  
Executive Chairman of Colliers Florida

**Marc Banning**  
CEO of Banning Lumber

**Rondé Barber (CEO Build Committee)**  
NFL Hall of Famer, General Chairman  
of Copperhead Charities

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

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

**Bill Brand (CEO Build Committee)**  
Board Member of Habitat for Humanity International;  
Former CEO of Rue21

**Timothy N. Brundage MD**  
CEO & Physician Advisor of Brundage Group

**Bob Childress**  
CEO of Solace Insurance

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

**Stephanie Connors**  
President & CEO of BayCare Health System

**John Couris (CEO Build Committee)**  
President & CEO of Tampa General Hospital

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

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

**Robert "Bob" Donaldson**  
CEO of Maxi-Blast of Florida

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

**Ed Droste**  
Chairman of Provident Management Corporation

**Deborah Duffey**  
President of Dermazone Solutions

**John Duffy**  
Owner of City Wide Facility Solutions

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

**Thomas Feindt**  
Chief Executive Officer of Grow Financial

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

**Scott Fink**  
VW of Wesley Chapel, Subaru of Wesley Chapel,  
& Fink Five Foundation

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

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

**Wendy Gattis**  
CEO of DITEK Corporation

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

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

**Steve Griggs**  
CEO of Vinik Sports Group

**Mindy Grossman (CEO Build Committee)**  
Partner & Chair of Consello Group,  
Former CEO of WW & HSNi

**Russ Hallenbeck**  
CEO of Tibbetts Lumber Company

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

**Bill Kent**  
President of George F. Young, Inc.

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

**Jim Kirkpatrick**  
Florida Market President of Republic Bank

**Scott Kramer**  
President & CEO of Spartan Contracting Corporation

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

**Sharon Leite (CEO Build Committee)**  
Former CEO of Ideal Image & Vitamin Shoppe

**Brett McGill (CEO Build Committee)**  
President & CEO of MarineMax

**Jim McVay**  
President & CEO of Reliaquest Bowl

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

**Kyle Mishler**  
Owner of KAM Roofing Services

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

**John Moore**  
President of Bayfront Health St. Petersburg

**Andy Park**  
Managing Partner of Park & Eleazer Construction

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

**Mitch Permuy**  
Chairman & CEO of Power Design

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

**Alyssa Rhoads**  
Executive Director of CEO Council of  
Tampa Bay

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

**Karyn Roeling**  
President & CEO of Seibert Insurance

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

**Ryan Ross (CEO Build Committee)**  
President of Neiman Marcus

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

**Jyric Sims**  
President of HCA Healthcare  
West Florida Division

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

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

**Dr. Kanika Tomalin**  
President & CEO of Foundation for a Healthy  
St. Petersburg

**John Tomlin**  
CEO of Tomlin St Cyr Real Estate Services

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

**Randy Ware**  
Founder & CEO of WestCMR

**Helen Wesley**  
President & CEO of TECO Peoples Gas

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

**Carlos Yepes**  
President & Founder of Belleair Development Group

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

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## Groundbreaking

# Habitat Breaks Ground on 54-Townhome Development In Largo

On the morning of Wednesday, December 20th, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties broke ground on Longlake Preserve, a 54-townhome development in Largo. Elected officials and supporters in the community gathered at the 7-acre site to celebrate the project's official start. Each townhome will be two stories, roughly 1,200 square feet, and be either 2-bed/2-bath or 3-bed/3-bath.

"The cost of living continues to rise in our community," said Mike Sutton, President & CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties. "The great thing about Habitat and these 54 families that will eventually call this home is that they'll have a 0% interest mortgage that guarantees the loan's affordability, allows them to stay in their community, and dig their heels into the community."

The 54 townhomes will be exclusively marketed to potential homeowners making less than 80% of the area median income (AMI) and willing to participate in the Habitat for Humanity homeownership program.

Longlake Preserve was made possible in part because of the advocacy done in Tallahassee by State Senator Ed Hooper (District 21) and State Representative Kim Berfield (District 58). They helped procure \$2 million from the annual state budget to assist this Habitat affiliate in projects like Longlake Preserve.

"This is a creative and innovative way to help families achieve this dream," said Representative Berfield. "What we are starting for these 54 families is just amazing. I look forward to more ventures that can help more families in Pinellas County."

The first homeowners are expected to move in by late 2024.



# ReStore Closure Announcement

Habitat Pinellas and West Pasco has made the difficult decision to close its ReStore operations effective March 30, 2024. Donations are no longer accepted as of January 31, 2024. The closure will provide the affiliate the ability to be singularly focused on the homeownership program, to address the need for affordable homeownership in our community.

A 25% off sale for all ReStore inventory will begin on Thursday, February 1st at both locations. Please visit our stores to shop these great deals.

To learn more, please [click here](#).



## The Habitat Team

### Staff Accolade

#### Mike Sutton Recognized as Power 100 Honoree for Fourth Year in a Row



Our very own President & CEO is recognized for the fourth year in a row on the 2024 Tampa Bay Business Journal's Power 100 list, a guide to the region's most influential business leaders! The Power 100 list serves as a guide to the region's most influential business leaders.

Congratulations and thank you to Mike for his continued leadership!

### Affiliate Award

#### Habitat Pinellas Pasco Wins Large Business of the Year Award

Habitat is proud to receive the Pinellas Park Gateway Chamber of Commerce's Large Business of the Year Award. Thank you to the Chamber and its members for the ongoing support to advance the Habitat mission in our community.



### Team Building

#### Habitat's Construction Team Visits Empower Adventures

Last month, our construction team participated in a zip line team-building exercise at Empower Adventures Tampa Bay. Thank you to the team at Empower for leading this group and providing an amazing experience for our team!





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

# Veterans Build

## *The Rimpson Family*

in partnership with



Owning a home is a long time American dream. We want to ensure that those that have served are not forgotten and are given the same opportunities that their sacrifices allowed us to have.

learn more at [habitatpwp.org/veterans-build](http://habitatpwp.org/veterans-build)

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LEARN MORE AT [HABITATPWP.ORG/GALA](http://HABITATPWP.ORG/GALA)



# Upcoming Events

**The Walker Family Home Dedication**  
February 15th | 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM  
518 11th Ave NW, Largo, FL 33770

**The Smith Family Home Dedication**  
February 29th | 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
4312 46th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33714

**The Orellana Family Home Dedication**  
February 27th | 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM  
1406 Pennsylvania Ave., Clearwater, FL 33755

**The Lindsey Family Home Dedication**  
February 29th | 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM  
4329 45th Ave. N., St. Petersburg FL 33714

how to get involved



Apply



Donate



Volunteer



Shop



Advocate



Celebrate the **900th** home built in our community with a \$900 donation!



donate today at  
[habitatpwp.org/900thhome](http://habitatpwp.org/900thhome)



## 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

**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

**(727) 536-4755 | [habitatpwp.org](http://habitatpwp.org)**

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