

## **Pelican Landing digs deep to help Habitat group**

BY GEORGE WHITE • Special to The News-Press • March 13, 2010

Karen Quanstrom didn't even try to stifle the wide grin that appeared when she spoke of the many volunteers from the Pelican Landing development who have pitched in to contribute to Habitat for Humanity.

"It must be something they built into the gates of Pelican Landing that is very unique," said Quanstrom, who is with the Lee County Habitat for Humanity. "There's a level of generosity - and I don't say that to detract from anybody else. There just seems to be an encompassing, overall umbrella of generosity at Pelican Landing that really impacts our mission greatly. It must be a joy to live there."

The Pelican Landing Habitat for Humanity volunteers gathered March 6 to dedicate their eighth home, given this time to Mariela Carillo, Jose Rangel, and their two daughters, Madeline and Melanie.

The "Nail Pounders" had begun the latest version of their project just four months ago.

John Duder, who heads the Pelican Landing board of directors, was on hand at the Alabama Street location for the ceremony.

Pelican Landing residents have contributed more than \$350,000 in all eight of the home-building projects, and approximately 60 residents contributed their skills in finishing the Alabama Street house.

The recipient couple both put in many long hours in building the house.

"I learned so much," said Rangel in a speech to the assembled volunteers. "It was great for you guys to take the time to teach me so many things. You'll never know how much we appreciate this."

"Volunteers generally work one day a week," Smith said, "but some work more. The general feeling of all of the volunteers is that Habitat for Humanity is an excellent organization where most of the money gets to the people who need it. They feel that they have received so much in life, and they are eager to give back to the community."

A raffle with several outstanding gift certificates will aid in the financing of the home and you do not need to be a resident of Pelican Landing to participate.

Telephone by March 30 to 239-652-0434, ext. 1678 to order by phone. Raffle prizes include gift certificates from Robb and Stucky for \$5,000, Diamond District for \$4,000, Engel's Bicycles for \$2,000, Pelican's Nest for \$1,200, Weekends Sportswear for \$1,000, The Golf Guys for \$1000 and a gourmet dinner for six which is "Priceless." The dinner, including wine, will be prepared at the winner's home.

The Pelican Landing Nail Pounders now move on to another project, rehabilitating a home in Bonita Springs.