



WINTER 2019

Habitat
for Humanity®
Lee and Hendry Counties

building together

INSIDE: 2017-2018 ANNUAL GRATITUDE REPORT

**Communities coming
together** p.4

Our next 10 years p.14

**People who make
an impact** p.12



Chico's FAS associates help raise the walls on a new Habitat home empowering a local family through shelter.

Photo courtesy of Kirsten Troyer Photography

**Everyone can help more families build
strength, stability and independence.**

HABITAT4HUMANITY.ORG



“I feel like I’m a good parent now. We have our home and we’re happy.”

- Ivonne, Habitat Homebuyer



Ivonne and her children were identified through our Disaster Recovery program, she applied for and was accepted into the traditional Habitat homeownership program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMPACT:

From hotel to home

Ivonne never imagined she and her five children would live in a tiny hotel room, but that's exactly where they were calling home. The younger kids snuggled together on one bed, the older boys made a bed on the floor. They took shifts in the bathroom; everyone woke up extra early because six people sharing one bathroom required coordination and patience. She tried to keep them on their routine, give them a sense of normalcy, a sense of security.

Hurricane Irma flooded the house she was renting. They had each other, but lost everything else –

the children's favorite toys, baby pictures and everything that makes a home, a home.

"When we lost our house it really affected me. I felt like I wasn't doing my job as a parent," Ivonne said. "Seeing my kids be bullied at school because we were homeless. It made me feel really bad."

Identified through the Disaster Recovery Program, she applied for and was accepted into the traditional Habitat homeownership program in January 2018. A month later, all six family members moved into a small

trailer with Ivonne's mother.

Then on July 17th, just weeks before Irma's one-year anniversary, Ivonne signed the mortgage to purchase her new Habitat home. When asked about the process of earning and buying her Habitat home Ivonne said, "It was a long journey, but it was very worth it. Now that I see them here running around, they have their own rooms, and somewhere to call home. I feel I'm a good parent now. We have our home now and we're happy."



Ivonne hugs Jo Hardy after receiving the keys to her home.

"It was so gratifying for all us to come together and work on Ivonne's home from start to finish, and then to see Ivonne in her completed home – it was just so wonderful,"

- Jo Hardy, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

Disaster Recovery Program

over

50

DRP non-Habitat home repairs completed

and over

50

Habitat homeowners have received
DRP related repairs

new inquiries

every day from local residents who are still living with Irma related damage

Learn more about our Disaster Recovery Program today at www.habitat4humanity.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMPACT:

Communities that build together

Over the past year, the cul-de-sac of Red Blossom Court in Bonita Springs has been full. Full of laughter, music, and the sounds of home building. Residents from the gated communities of Bonita Bay, Pelican Landing, Shadow Wood and Miromar Lakes came together this year to construct 3 homes in the half circle, adding to the 21 already completed in the neighborhood off Terry Street known as Red Hibiscus.

Taking great pride of ownership in funding and building ‘their homes’, the volunteers arrive early, check in with Habitat’s Construction Team, and get to work. While each community works a little differently, they are all fiercely loyal to ‘their house’, the future Habitat homebuyer who will purchase that home, and the Habitat mission of bringing people together to put God’s love into action to build homes, communities, and hope.

This upcoming year, the Gated Community volunteers have already begun construction on the last 2 homes on Red Blossom Court and Habitat for Humanity’s Red Hibiscus neighborhood will be complete. Through the dedication, volunteerism and fundraising of the residents of Bonita Bay, Pelican Landing, Shadow Wood and Miromar Lakes, Red Hibiscus will provide



TOP: Verandah staff, residents and supporters raise enough to sponsor a home in their neighborhood's name by simply playing a round of golf on a gorgeous fall day in SW Florida.

MIDDLE: Habitat's Pelican Landing Committee takes a well-deserved break to pose for a shot at their sponsored home's wall-raising.

BOTTOM: Residents of Shadow Wood gather to stuff envelopes at their annual "mail night" and pizza party.

safety for children to play, a secure place for their parents to plan the future, and forever hold a piece of our community volunteers' hearts.

Some of the volunteer groups have moved on from the confines of Red Hibiscus to scattered lots in Bonita Springs. While the opportunity to purchase affordable land is rare in Bonita Springs, Habitat for Humanity Lee and Hendry Counties is poised to fulfill its mission of building homes, communities and hope through land acquisitions with the help of our gated communities. Stay tuned as we announce our next Bonita Springs neighborhood, breaking ground next year!



TOP: Bonita Bay residents and Neighborhood Fundraising Captains Dororta Harris and Sylvia Weiss celebrate at the Sunset Beach Party.

MIDDLE LEFT: Pelican Landing Residents Ellen Dennis and Chuck Avery nail hurricane straps in Red Hibiscus. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Habitat Board Member and Bonita Bay Resident Mike Mullinix rallies his neighbors to raise walls on the cul-de-sac of Red Blossom Court. **BOTTOM:** Bonita Bay Residents and individual home sponsors Terry and Susan Mulligan celebrate the wall raising of Felix and Evelyn's home along with last year's sponsored homeowner Linda.

Habitat for Humanity makes it easy for neighborhood groups to make a difference. Contact Major Gifts Officer Vince Modarelli at (239) 800-5205 or vincem@habitat4humanity.org to schedule an informational meeting at your community. Learn how easy it is to bring your neighbors together to build homes, communities, and hope!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMPACT:

ReStore: Changing donations into homes

Suddenly, Desarai was stretching her paycheck even further as her family grew from three to seven overnight. When her sister took a turn for the worse, there was no question in Desarai's mind, her nephew and three nieces would live with her.

As her family more than doubled, she partnered with Habitat to earn and purchase an affordable home. She knew having an affordable, safe home would be key for her new family's success.

Desarai is a CNA, and her shifts didn't always coordinate

with our construction schedule, so she volunteered a number of her sweat equity hours at our ReStore. She became a recognizable face at the ReStore, always wearing a smile and having a great attitude. "Volunteering at the ReStore was a wonderful experience. It was a great atmosphere to volunteer in and everyone really respects each other," said Desarai.

Chatting with Desarai you would never know that she is raising four teenagers, a preteen, and an eight-year-old. "Purchasing my

own home is a fresh start for me and them. We can go for walks around the neighborhood and not worry. My kids smile now," said Desarai.

The ReStore is not just a place where you can donate your new or gently used items and find a great deal on furniture, housewares, or building materials. It is a place where community is cultivated; where people from all walks of life work together for a greater good; and a place that strengthens families and builds homes.



Desarai (top right) celebrates with her children, family and friends at her home dedication.

2017-2018: ReStore by the numbers:



18 homes sponsored through ReStore profits
because
donors gave **16,178** donations!

639 completed volunteers
18,590 volunteer hours



3 current ReStore locations
+1 coming soon on McGregor

Habitat for Humanity®
ReStore®

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Schedule your **FREE** pickup online at ReStoreLee.org today or call the donation hotline at (239) 652-0388.

thank you corporate sponsors:



40 minutes of impact to feed your soul



Gary Aubuchon hands over the house keys to homebuyer Rubie during her home dedication.

Attending a Habitat home dedication is one of the easiest time commitments you can make. Only 40 minutes from start to finish. Forty minutes that forever change a Habitat family's life. That will forever impact yours and feed your soul.

A home dedication is a ceremony held at the Habitat home just purchased by a family to celebrate their successful journey to homeownership. Habitat's Homeownership Advisors share

some of the family's story, their partnership with Habitat and give them three symbolic gifts – an American flag, a Bible, and a doorknocker. Then everyone is asked to lay their hands on the walls of the home as it's blessed. The final gift, which truly is not a gift, but something the family has earned, is the key to the home.

A home dedication encapsulates all of Habitat. In those 40 minutes you meet some of the volunteers who helped build the home, the Habitat

staff who provided guidance and counsel, and most importantly, the homebuyers. Sharing in the family's joy, relief and excitement of knowing they now have a safe and affordable place to call home; a solid foundation from which they can build their future, makes a home dedication the most memorable 40 minutes you can spend.

- By Gary Aubuchon: 2019 Habitat for Humanity, Board of Directors Chairman

Contact Director of Communications Valerie Knight at valeriek@habitat4humanity.org to receive our dedication invitations.

YOUR IMPACT, OUR GRATITUDE

FY 2017-2018 | OCTOBER 1, 2017–SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

gratitude report



YOUR IMPACT, OUR GRATITUDE

gratitude report

FY 2017-2018 | october 1, 2017 –
september 30, 2018

Executive Leaders

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Rick Mercer | Construction

Tanya Soholt | Family Services

John O’Donnell | Finance

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64 families
purchased
homes

5,653
volunteers

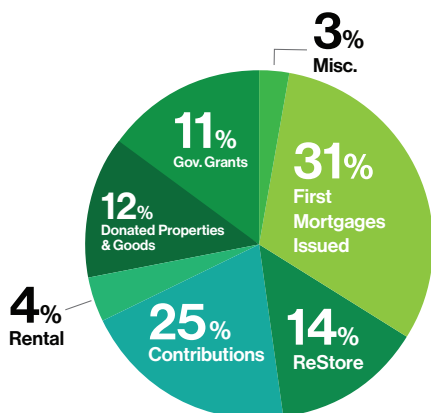


107
children
now
have
stability

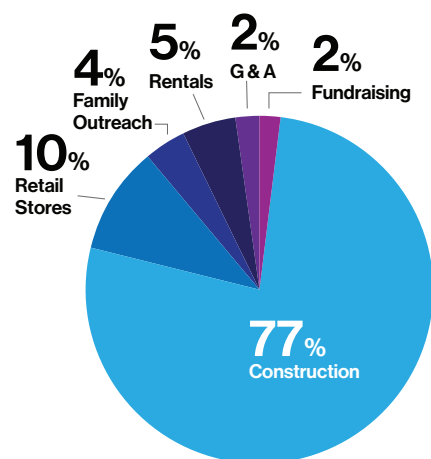
15 families
living mortgage
free after
satisfying their
mortgage



Total Revenue
\$18,949,364



Total Expenses
\$18,003,002



60 families

served internationally through local tithe



1,174 families

came to us to learn about homeownership

56,284 volunteer hours



FY 2017-2018 Government Grants

\$1,654,712 Lee County SHIP • **\$164,577** Cape Coral SHIP • **\$190,000** Cape Coral CDBG
\$90,000 SHOP • **\$34,720** Lee County School Impact Fee Rebate

Special thanks to our corporate sponsors:



Thank you, every gift empowers a family in Lee & Hendry Counties

FY 2017-2018 | OCTOBER 1, 2017–SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

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We have worked hard to be recognized for our accountability and transparency. We are extremely diligent in keeping costs down and maximizing the dollars invested by our donors.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMPACT:

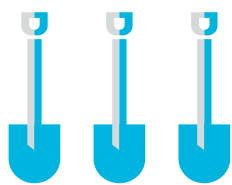
A world where everyone has a decent place to live—starts with us.

Since our founding in 1982, Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties has helped more than 1,870 families build or improve the place they call home.

However, with over 52,000 households in Lee County spending more than half of their monthly income on housing costs, the need for Habitat for Humanity is greater than ever. The truth is that — without the hand up that Habitat extends — too few mothers and fathers will ever have the peace of mind affordable homeownership creates. Too few seniors will know the security of being able to stay in a home they can afford to maintain. And too few youngsters will grow up in a safe place from which they can reach their potential.

In fiscal year 2017/18 much was done to ensure that Habitat will have the land to build affordable homes on for the next ten years throughout Lee County.

In 2019, we plan to break ground on:



- Our new 120-home subdivision in Harlem Heights
- A 36-home neighborhood in North Fort Myers
- A 14-home neighborhood in Bonita Springs

Beyond 2019:

44 townhomes on Diplomat Parkway

Through the generosity of Private Equity Group LLC we acquired a parcel of land on Diplomat Pkwy in North Fort Myers that is fully permitted for 44 townhomes.



29 homes in East Fort Myers



We plan to develop a 29-home single family neighborhood in East Fort Myers, which will take the place of the Majorca Palms homes that will be fully sold next year.

3 land parcels in Lee County

3 other parcels have been contracted in North Fort Myers, East Fort Myers and Bonita Springs that, in the future, will collectively allow us to partner with more than 350 families in need of affordable housing



Because of you we see glimpses of our vision of a better world, when another family leaves behind a too-crowded, too-expensive, too-unsafe house and moves into a Habitat home they helped build.

Interested in sponsoring a home in one of our new neighborhoods? Contact Major Gifts Officer Vince Modarelli at (239) 800-5205 or vincem@habitat4humanity.org to learn how you can help a family achieve the dream of owning a Habitat home.

Join us & together we can make a bigger impact



Women Build 2019 Kickoff Party

Wednesday, March 6, 2019 | Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Downtown Fort Myers

To stay in the know, email WomenBuild@Habitat4Humanity.org



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 12, 2019 | Babcock Ranch

Join us for an inspirational morning with Habitat International's CEO, Jonathan Reckford.

Habitat for Humanity
ReStore®

NEW!

McGregor ReStore
Opening Winter 2019!

A 4th convenient location to donate your new or gently used items or find a great bargain!

Follow us: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HabitatRestoresofLeeandHendryCounties) @HabitatRestoresofLeeandHendryCounties



Habitat 101 Third Tuesday of the Month | Noon

You're invited to a free, one hour luncheon where you'll be taken on a journey through our history and impact in the community.

Habitat's North Fort Myers Campus | 1288 N. Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers

RSVP at habitat4humanity.org



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
Lee and Hendry Counties

1288 N. Tamiami Trail North, Fort Myers, FL 33903

leave a legacy

**Support Habitat for Humanity
with a gift today and beyond
your lifetime...**

**Here are easy, smart ways to
give now or later:** Stocks, retirement
accounts or life insurance • A charitable
gift annuity – income for life! • A gift in
your will

Contact Becky Lucas at
BeckyS@Habitat4Humanity.org
to leave your legacy.

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Mortgage Burning Celebration

**Join us as we celebrate the success
of Habitat Homebuyers becoming
mortgage free!**

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments provided.



Tuesday, January 22nd | 6:30pm

South Fort Myers ReStore

16133 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers, FL 33908

**To RSVP, please contact
Janet Santos at
JanetS@habitat4humanity.org**



**you're
invited**