



building together

Through
shelter, we
empower

SPRING 2019
habitat4humanity.org

During her mother's home dedication, Natalie proudly showed off her "mi casa es su casa" t-shirt to the Shadow Wood community members who fundraised and volunteered alongside her mother helping build their Habitat home.

Women Build:

empowering women together since 2011



TOP LEFT: Habitat homebuyer, Roseline, and her five children are one of 20 families who have been empowered through Women Build since 2011. **TOP RIGHT:** Volunteer Site Supervisor, Pam Schmidt, and SuperWoman, Christina Schwinn, volunteer painting Roseline's Habitat house. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Chico's FAS, Inc. associates volunteer during Women Build 2019. Since 2011, Chico's FAS, Inc. has partnered with us to empower women through Women Build. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** In March, over 200 people celebrated the launch of our 9th Women Build season at Sydney & Berne Davis Art Center and enjoyed a panel discussion about impacts of affordable housing built through Women Build.

thank you to our Women Build sponsors:



and to our in kind sponsors:



In 2020 we celebrate 10 years of empowering women through Women Build! Join us for this milestone anniversary. Email WomenBuild@Habitat4Humanity.org to be added to our Women Build mailing list and stay in the know about our upcoming 2020 events.

Every woman can build for empowerment



"For almost all of my young life I grew up one of three children with a single mother. I know the struggles of moving from apartment to apartment, having moved 9 times in 10 years between the age of 6-11 years old. We never had a place to call our own, we always paid someone else for the privilege of living in their small apartments. I feel blessed and grateful to be able to help a mother and her children to have a place to call their own home, a place where they feel safe and secure and are in control of their own home and future."

- Wendi Carroll, Women Build Volunteer Site Supervisor

Left to right: Wendi Carroll with Volunteer Site Supervisor and Habitat Board Member, Pat Benner and Habitat CEO & President Kitty Green.

"Habitat has changed our lives for the better. My dreams of becoming a homeowner and raising my kids in a safe environment have become true because of Habitat. [During Women Build] I got to work next to and meet so many amazing people! This will forever be a truly amazing experience that I will never forget."

- Wanda, Women Build 2018 Habitat Homebuyer

Spring 2018 Women Build, Wanda volunteered alongside Women Build supporters and learned new construction skills to help build her home.



"Women Build is all about empowering women. There's something supernatural about women helping women. The program changes lives, but not just of the women who purchase the home. It also changes the lives of the volunteers who go through the process with them."

- Pam Avesian, Women Build SuperWoman, Habitat Board Member and Vice President of Internal Audit at Chico's FAS

Pam Avesian (second from right) volunteers with her Chico's FAS, Inc. team during the house raising of Chico's FAS, Inc. 50th sponsored Habitat home.

"My daughter, Margaret, and I love being a part of Women Build. This event is very special to us, with all the support from the Habitat staff, and all the volunteers it does feel as we work side by side, that we do have an incredible power to help make a big difference in our community. With the skills we share and gain, like campaigning, fundraising, and constructing homes, we know it's helping loving families and our hope is it will empower many others to do the same in their community and that makes us happy."

- Candiss and Margaret, Mother-Daughter Volunteer Duo

Mother-daughter volunteer duo and SuperWomen, Candiss Dombkowski and Margaret Fulghum, volunteer at the 2019 Women Build house raising.



Every act of kindness builds a legacy



When Barbara was 13, she was on the swim team, a member of the Thespian Honor Society, bussed tables at a local diner and homeless. Eventually, she moved in with her grandmother, but at 16, her grandmother sold the house, and Barbara was homeless – again. She slept in her car, worked two jobs and managed to stay in school. She lied about her age saying she was 18 to get her first apartment.

She graduated, fell in love, married and welcomed two children into the world by the age of 20. Barbara longed to provide her children with the stable home she never had, but life with her husband was chaotic. She made the brave choice to divorce, even though it meant losing everything due to the debt her husband had amassed during their marriage.

Then a friend invited Barbara to attend a Habitat for Humanity dinner, where the guest speaker was Millard Fuller, Habitat's founder. "Millard lit a spark in my heart that will never go out," said Barbara about that pivotal night. "He helped me realize there was hope and kindness in the world."

Unsure if she would qualify for the Habitat homeownership program, Barbara applied. While she didn't necessarily have the qualifications a conventional lender would use to

approve someone for a loan, Habitat saw that she paid her bills and was a hard worker. "Habitat offered me a hand up. I was able to come up with the down payment and complete the sweat equity hours."

"I still remember the volunteers who worked alongside me nailing hurricane straps and the kindness they showed me. It was one of the best feelings to have someone by my side and know that they really cared."

This year, after 17 years, Barbara celebrated paying off her Habitat home and becoming mortgage free. Through her hard work and perseverance, and with the kindness of strangers, she achieved her dream of giving her children a stable home to grow up in and an address they will always know as their own.

"Complete strangers, came to help me, someone they didn't know, literally build a better life. I'll never forget that feeling or those volunteers. Their small acts of kindness have impacted my life and my children's lives forever."



**everyone can help
build the future**

You can help build lasting impact for families like Barbara's beyond your lifetime. Learn more with the Building the Future Legacy Society insert for more information.





Barbara along with her husband and son, proudly show off her “Satisfaction of Mortgage” certificate at the January 2019 Mortgage Burning Ceremony.

Thank you, every gift empowers families in Lee & Hendry Counties

October 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

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KEY:

*

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SW(2)/SM

Women Build
= SuperWoman⁽²⁾/
Man

Bold

= Building a Legacy
Society Member

Neighbors giving a hand up to their neighbors

Rosa volunteered alongside her neighbors from Pelican Landing to help build her home and community members from Pelican Landing rallied their neighbors to help sponsor Rosa's Habitat house.

Thank you to the Pelican Landing community for raising the funds to build Rosa's house and for volunteering alongside her as she built strength and stability for herself and her family.



Rosa (second from left) proudly shows off the keys to her new Habitat home with members of the Pelican Landing Habitat Committee.



Richard Garner (left) congratulates Habitat homebuyer, Martin, during Martin's home dedication.

Bonita Bay's Habitat volunteer group, The Nail Pounders, helped Martin build his home and the Bonita Bay captains shared Habitat's mission with their neighbors to help fund the sponsorship of Martin's house.

Thank you to Bonita Bay's Habitat volunteer group, The Nail Pounders, and the Bonita Bay fundraising captains and committee for their willingness to dig in, get dirty and lift Martin up through an affordable Habitat house.



for one of the 65 home dedications we will celebrate this fiscal year. Email Rachel West at RachelW@habitat4humanity.org to learn more.

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