

April 6, 2020

Dear Friend of Women Build,

In our 10th year of serving and empowering strong women through affordable homeownership, the 2020 Women Build Teams have raised more money than ever before. With a goal to pay the construction costs of three new Habitat homes, this year's donations have already surpassed last year's by over \$20,000, and we are well on our way to funding that third home.



We all find ourselves in a new reality and our Habitat Team has been closely monitoring the escalations surrounding COVID-19. This is an increasingly difficult time for people, businesses, and organizations across the country and our community. Habitat construction sites, office administration and construction warehouse operations remain closed to all volunteers until further notice. As a nonprofit that relies entirely on the support of others, please know we are making difficult decisions prayerfully—so we sincerely appreciate your help.

Because of the money that keeps coming in, Habitat staff remains employed, building homes and keeping these families moving forward toward homeownership. For that, we are abundantly grateful. With your kind and generous support, three moms and their nine children will have new homes built and dedicated, but not by Mother's Day as planned. Thus:

- Like all future homeowners currently in Habitat's program, Christina, Crystal, and Sophia continue to work toward homeownership. Sweat equity opportunities are certainly more limited, but nonetheless available. Home maintenance and financial literacy classes are now offered online. Conversations happen over the phone with members of the Family Services Team versus in person, and Habitat for Humanity is moving forward with scheduled home closings, subject to circumstances beyond our control.
- As with all Habitat volunteer activities, the Women Build volunteer activities scheduled to occur April 25 thru May 8th are canceled. Originally planned to culminate in dedication ceremonies on May 9th, that celebration is postponed for a time when we can all get together safely. The Women Build 2020 Thank You Party at the Hyatt Regency on May 14th is likewise postponed.
- Habitat for Humanity is a residential building contractor and properly licensed as such with the State of Florida. We have reviewed all applicable Executive Orders and have determined that our operations qualify as essential/critical infrastructure and that we are able to continue to operate under those Orders. We are handling our worksites with extreme care. There is space to safely accommodate Habitat construction and non-construction staff in our home building efforts, including our three Women Build homes. Therefore, as long as there is construction work to do, Habitat staff members can continue paid employment on these construction sites.
- This pandemic vigorously impacts the most economically and physically vulnerable members of our community, so please join us in praying for those who are ill and those who struggle financially. Pray for our government leaders and medical professionals. Pray for protection over our entire community and all those who come into contact with this Habitat ministry.

With 60 homes in some phase of planning or construction this year, we still have a busy Habitat build schedule ahead of us! As a supporter of Women Build, you will be receiving regular updates as we progress. Please take precautions to stay safe and healthy, take some time to rest up, and stay ready to build hope in families who need the strong foundation of decent, affordable housing. Above all, let's be there to support one another during this difficult time. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Thanks for all you bring to this ministry, See you again soon!

Becky Lucas  
CEO  
Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties