



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
Palm Beach County

ON THE LEVEL



STRENGTHENING LIVES, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

WINTER 2009

Kennedy Estates

Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County acquired a parcel of land from The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners in the Jupiter area known as Kennedy Estates in Nov. 2007. This 5.6 acre parcel has 27 single family lots. All the infra-structure has been completed by the county. We broke ground on the first three lots in February 2008. We currently have completed thirteen. We are on track to complete the project by Summer 2010.

Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County (HFHPBC) is a twenty-three year old, 501c3 affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. HFHPBC serves Palm Beach County residents from Hypoluxo Rd, north, to the Martin County line and west to Lake Okeechobee. We have completed 95 homes and currently have 5 under construction. Our strategic plan for the next three years is to steadily increase building to average 30 houses per year by 2012.

Our mission is dedicated to changing lives and eliminating sub-standard housing by building simple, decent, affordable houses using community volunteers with qualified families. These hard working families are the backbone of Florida's economy. Habitat offers families a "hand up, not a hand out"; as these partner families must invest 500 hours of sweat equity into the construction of Habitat homes, including their own. They must also attend monthly classes geared to developing responsible homeowners. Some of the workshops include: budgeting, home safety, community involvement insurance and credit counseling. Our partner families are between 40 – 80 % average medium household income (AMI). With the sluggish increase in local salaries (the average salary in Palm Beach County for all occupations is \$29,851); many Palm Beach County families are forced to pay more than

half their income for housing. Our houses are currently appraising at \$199,000. We provide our families with a 30 year, NO INTEREST mortgage for the hard costs only. So, their monthly payment for a \$100,000



mortgage, which includes property taxes and insurance, is between \$500 and \$600.

Habitat believes that a decent home is full of intangibles that create a framework in which families can thrive and individuals can grow into their full potential. By continuing to build houses with those in need and by working with committed groups, the elimination of sub-standard housing can be achieved.

The hard cost for each house is currently \$98,000. The total cost of construction for Kennedy Estates is \$2,981,205. To date, we have received funding from Rendina Family Foundation, Barsanti Foundation, JL Cares, Jonathan's Landing Country Club, The Breakers Palm Beach, PBC Housing Finance Authority, Lost Tree Charitable Foundation, PGA Resort and Spa, Mestal Foundation, The Batchelor Foundation, Studley, Winn-Dixie Foundation, Gottlieb Family Foundation, Fisher Hess Foundation Publix Super Market Charities and Wachovia Foundation.

There will be fifteen 3 bedroom houses and twelve 4 bedroom houses. This community development project of very affordable houses will serve 33 adults and 81 children. These families average medium household income (AMI) is between 40 – 80 %. They must be residents of Palm Beach County for a minimum of one year and they must provide tax returns to show they have the ability to pay back the interest free mortgage.

These low income, hard working families will be achieving the American dream of homeownership. Habitat Village in Kennedy Estates will change the neighborhood in Jupiter. Proud new homeowners change the visual and economic harmony of a neighborhood. They also strengthen community spirit.



KENNEDY ESTATES BLVD

Contact Us

Executive Director

Bernard Godek
bgodek@habitatpb.org

Development Director

Lisa Archer
lisa@habitatpb.org

Dir. Volunteer/Family Services

Bernadette Diaz
bdiaz@habitatpb.org

Finance Director

Paula Portch
paula@habitatpb.org

Office Administrator

Yani Aguillon
yani@habitatpb.org

Construction Manager

Don Kula
donkula@habitatpb.org

ReStore Manager

Peter Gates
peter@habitatpb.org

Thrift Store Manager

June Saito
hfthriftstore@bellsouth.net

Volunteer

volunteer@habitatpb.org

Board of Directors

Wilton White - *President*

Christopher Andrews

Ronald Barsanti

Brian Cich

Derek Cooper

Robert Cutler

Bob Frein

Nigel Fullick

Christopher Heggen

Brad Jankowski

JenniLynn Lawrence

Howarth Lewis

Elizabeth Marshall

Bradley Neider

Jack Norris

Richard Rendina

Michael J. Sabatello IV

Lisa Silva

John Strickroot

Jennifer Tighe

Melissa Tyner

Thomas Walker

Kenneth A. Weda

James Bramuchi

Founder & Emeritus Board Member

Message from the Executive Director

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Staff at Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who generously donated to support our mission of building simple, decent, and affordable homes for the lower-income, hardworking families of Palm Beach County. Whether your donation included volunteering on one of our construction sites, donating personal items to our ReStore or Thrift Store, or writing us a check, your generous support during this past year helped 15 Palm Beach County residents achieve the American dream of first-time homeownership.



We all know what impact the economic recession has had on our great nation and especially here in south Florida. The public, private, and non-profit sectors have all been affected. Being well aware of the challenges ahead, we at Habitat made a decision to continue on with our aggressive home building goals as the need for affordable housing for our lower-income families was not relieved by the increasing number of property foreclosures. Most foreclosed homes were still not affordable for working families and the ability to qualify for and acquire financing was nearly impossible. Because of our tenacity and your generosity we were able to fulfill our housing production goals for 2009 and made it a record year for Habitat.

The year ahead will again present us with many challenges, but we have decided that our residents deserve nothing less than our total support – and more. Our affordable housing goal for next year will be the most aggressive ever for Habitat and I feel confident that we will again garner the support we need to build 22 simple, decent, and affordable homes for 22 hard working families of Palm Beach County. But we can't do it without your support. Every hour that you volunteer, every item that you donate, and every dollar that you generously give will help us achieve our goal. Some have suggested that we "wait out the economic crisis and build when it's over", but that approach just is not good enough for the thousands of Palm Beach County residents living in substandard and poverty housing. I ask that you join us in our effort to provide a record number of affordable homes for our hardworking residents this coming year. When you think about giving this holiday season, please consider Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County –and please consider the impact that your generous donation will have helping a local family achieve a dream that so many of us already enjoy. Give generously and the rewards you receive in return will be a hundred fold.

Thank you and God bless you and keep you safe this holiday season.

Bernard J. Godek

Executive Director

2nd Annual Home in One Classic

This years 2nd Annual "Home in One" Classic was a blast!

Special thanks go to National City for the Title Sponsorship, United States Sugar Corporation for the Hat Sponsorship and Rendina Companies for the Golf Ball Sponsorship.



Additionally, the following people partnered with HFHPBC with Tee Sponsorships: Chris Andrews, Bob Cutler, Lisa Silva, Ken Weda, Jennifer Tighe, Derek Cooper, Bernie Godek and Michael Sabatello. We net almost \$14,000 (\$13,915 to be exact). In these times of economic challenges, this tourney was a huge success. Congratulations W. G. Mills for taking 1st place!

Volunteer Limelight

“Regulars” Volunteer Crew aka Unpaid staff



The Habitat homes could not be complete if it were not for our “Regular” volunteer crew.

Our “Regular” Volunteers are individuals who have given their time to volunteer at a Habitat built site at least once, some 2 to 3 days per week throughout the year. These individuals volunteer along side new Habitat volunteers, teaching them the skills needed in building a home. Many of these volunteers have become great friends supporting each other outside of Habitat and you can even find them hanging out and fishing together on their “days off”.

Some of the crew members: Ron Barsanti, Ron Weaver, Sam McArthur, Don Brewster, Doc, Lenny “Grumpy” Goldstein and Buddy , Kevin, Mike, Richie, Randy, Brian, Brian Thompson, Tom, John Revson, Ruben Cooley, Bud, Mark Clarke, Allison McKelvie, Mary Pittman, Tim Hadsell, and Bob Monz.



Leslie Clark (on right) working with volunteers

Leslie Clark

If you have been to any of the home dedications in Kennedy Estates you may have noticed the beautiful landscaping of each home. All of the landscaping in Kennedy Estates has been planned and designed by Leslie Clark.

Leslie, in conjunction with the PBC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program, is a

Leslie Clark cont...

Botanist who donates the plants, her time, and her gardening expertise for all of the homes in Kennedy Estates. In her planning she takes into consideration the setback and color of the home, along with working individually with each of the homeowners to fulfill their landscaping dreams. In the end, she fills their yards with colorful plants making each home unique with no homes looking alike. Her finishing touches are what makes each home special to each family.

The Clark Family

In order to be able to build onsite, every volunteer must be at least 16 years old.

The Clark Family is still too young to lift a hammer, but they are not too young to lend a helping hand!

Suzu (Mom), Spencer (7), and Cody (4) love to volunteer and have

found wonderful ways to be involved with Habitat. They have collected home items from friends and neighbors and have made a “Welcome Home” basket for the Hernandez Family. They also make and serve lunch to the volunteers at our build sites.

They have even recruited the Young Family, April (Mom), Dennis (7), and Haley(5), to join them. Most recently they made and served a DELICIOUS lunch of lasagna and apple crisp to our “regular” volunteer crew. The volunteers really love the lunches! So much so that it takes them a little while to get back to work since they would rather take a short siesta after such a great meal!



Follow us throughout the year!

twitter

<http://twitter.com/habitatpbc>



facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Habitat-for-Humanity-of-Palm-Beach-County/146058054047>



2009 Groundbreakings & Dedications



Donor of the Year

Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County is proud to name Ronald Barsanti DONOR OF THE YEAR.

We first met Ron in the spring of 2007. He would come into the office once a week and helped us with data entry. After a few months, Ron let us know that he really wanted to be on site helping with the building of houses. So Ron started going to Westgate every Wednesday. When asked if he could help us with the sponsorship of a house, he asked, "How much do you need?" We told him the hard cost for each house is \$92,000. Ron's reply was, "I have a foundation and I would be happy to fully sponsor a house". Wow! That was in Oct 2007. Since then, Ron has sponsored an additional two houses. He has committed to one house a year. Recently, Ron joined the Board of Directors. The dictionary defines donor as a person who gives. Ron does much more than that. He performs a service on a regular basis - willingly, without pay or expectation of compensation. Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County is proud to name Ronald Barsanti DONOR OF THE YEAR.



Business Donor of the Year

The Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County ReStore Business Donor of the Year is Decorators Unlimited.

The past year has been a very good year for the Habitat ReStore. Although the economic downturn has affected us like everyone else, sales and donations are still consistent and we are looking forward to the future. Speaking of donations, many businesses are still supporting us and we would like to recognize "**Decorators Unlimited**" of Palm Beach Gardens as our "**Donor of the Year**". The folks at "Decorators Unlimited" really enjoy helping the Habitat mission and have done their best to give us donations of very high quality items. We would like to thank "Decorators Unlimited" for their support and we look forward to our continued relationship.

You can find them at:

4700 Riverside Dr.
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410
Phone: 561-625-3000



Thrift Store

Business Donor of the Year

The Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County Thrift Store Business Donor of the Year, without question, is Brown's Interior Design Showroom.

For the past number of years they have been very generous donating home furnishings, accessories, electrical lamps and chandeliers. Darrel Wright Interior Design Consultant and Merchandise Manager is always a pleasure, as are Brown's delivery people.

You can find them at:

1628 U S Highway 1,
Tequesta, Florida 33469
Phone: 561-744-1116





1225A South Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

www.habitatpbc.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Palm Beach, FL
Permit #1064

Current Resident or:



STRENGTHENING LIVES, FAMILIES, and COMMUNITIES

Winter



We are Building Homes Worldwide

Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County was founded in 1986 by Mr. James (JB) Bramuchi, a local retired general contractor. Since 1986, Habitat for Humanity has built 95 simple, decent, and affordable houses throughout Palm Beach County. The sad truth remains that the issues of poverty and substandard housing that we face in the U.S. and here in Palm Beach County pale in comparison to those of developing countries – and both groups of families need our valuable support! As you know, our overseas affiliates struggle with the same financial problems that we face here, but with much fewer resources.

Since our founding in 1986, Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County has tithed more than a quarter of a million dollars to Habitat for Humanity International to support them in their worldwide mission to eliminate poverty housing and make decent and affordable housing available to all of God's children. In that effort, our monetary support has helped build over 121 Habitat houses in South America, the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe. Our tithe is providing hope to our brothers and sisters in areas where there appears to be little hope for growth and self-sufficiency.

