



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
Tampa Bay Gulfside

The Community Builder
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A Note from Mike Sutton, President & CEO



Dear Habitat Supporter,

Welcome to the thirty-first edition of The Community Builder newsletter!

This exclusive communication is specifically designed for you – our Advisory Board Members, Board of Directors, Emeritus Trustees, Legacy Society Members, Community Builders Society Members, and major donors. The goal of this monthly communication is to provide you with insight into current and upcoming projects, events and initiatives designed in support of our mission.

Currently, more than 130 families are actively working through our homeowner program, building their forever homes and creating pathways to intergenerational wealth. In 2024 alone, volunteers dedicated over 44,000 hours on our build sites – a testament to the incredible community support that powers our mission. We couldn't achieve this without them, and we're excited to welcome even more helping hands in 2025!

This year also marked a significant milestone with our rebranding from Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties to Habitat for Humanity Tampa Bay Gulfside. This new name reflects our expansion into Hernando County, further solidifying our presence across three of the four counties in the Tampa Bay Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Over the past few months, we've shown what it means to be a steadfast presence in the community. Following Hurricanes Helene and Milton, our team quickly contacted Habitat homeowners and partner families throughout our service area. Together with community partners, we organized donation drives to assist families in need. We launched a Mortgage Stabilization Fund to support Habitat homeowners who experienced job or wage loss due to the hurricanes.

As we celebrate the holiday season, I encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on the individuals and families who are holding onto hope for a better future. You've likely heard me say Habitat is just one piece of the puzzle in addressing the affordable housing crisis, but our work has a profound and lasting impact. My hope for 2025 is that those considering applying to our program find the courage to take that first step toward a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership. Together, we will continue to move the mission forward to build more homes, communities and hope. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Sutton', written in a cursive style.

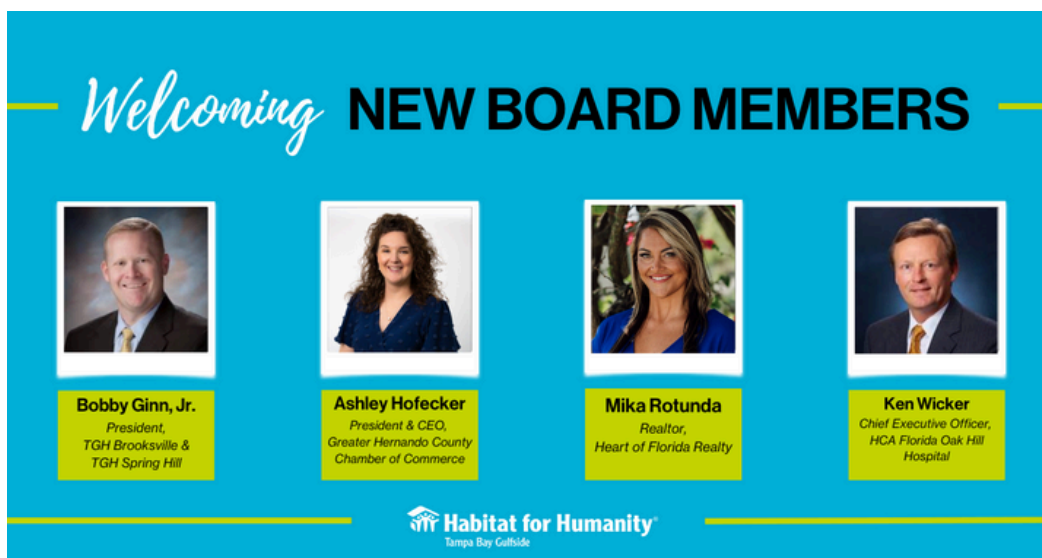
Mike Sutton, President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity Tampa Bay Gulfside



our mission

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Habitat Welcomes Four Hernando Leaders to Board of Directors



Habitat for Humanity Tampa Bay Gulfside is proud to announce the addition of four new members to its Board of Directors. These four individuals lead organizations in Hernando County. They will be tasked with representing Habitat at events, helping Habitat form new relationships in the community, and attracting new homeowner candidates to apply for the homeownership program.

New Board Members:

- Bobby Ginn, Jr., President, TGH Brooksville & TGH Spring Hill
- Ashley Hofecker, President & CEO, Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce
- Mika Rotunda, Realtor, Heart of Florida Realty
- Ken Wicker, Chief Executive Officer, HCA Florida Oak Hill Hospital

Habitat Accepts First Hernando Family into Homeownership Program

On Wednesday, November 20th, Habitat leaders held a special reception for Hernando Community members to meet and greet at Heart of Florida Realty in Brooksville. Those in attendance got to witness the acceptance of Habitat's first Hernando family into our homeownership program. CEO Mike Sutton surprised Kenya Pickering with her certificate of acceptance to the Habitat homeownership program.

On hand for the surprise were board members Ashley Hofecker, Charlie Rogers, Mika Rotunda, and Ken Wicker.



Habitat partners with HGTV's '100 Day Dream Home'

Home Build will also be site of Habitat's 4th annual CEO Build



Here's how it happened

Over the summer, the Habitat team built a relationship with Brian and Mika Kleinschmidt - the hosts of HGTV's #1-rated show, '100 Day Dream Home.' The couple is from the Tampa Bay Area and has done five seasons of home builds in our region. As they moved into season six, they wanted to tell unique stories. Brian volunteered with Habitat during his college days at UCF. When our team reached out, he and Mika were thrilled to meet with us and learn about how our story could be told on HGTV. Fast forward to December, and we have broken ground on a home together in St. Pete. The episode will focus on the Habitat program and homeowner partner, the Simmons Family. Single mom Lace and her children are excited to help us tell the Habitat story, clear up misconceptions, and show the hard work Habitat homeowners put in to earn their homes.

2025 CEO Build to be featured

Habitat's 2025 CEO Build - our 4th annual CEO Build - will sponsor the Simmons Family Home and be featured during our episode of 100 Day Dream Home. The CEO Build will unite 75 local leaders to raise funds and help the Simmons Family build their Habitat Home. Our previous three CEO Builds have raised a total of over \$400,000 and supported three families on their journey to affordable homeownership.

Learn more about the 2025 CEO Build a little later in this edition of The Community Builder.



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2024 GOLFING FORE HABITAT TOPGOLF CHALLENGE RAISES OVER \$130K TO SUPPORT HOMEOWNERSHIP DREAMS



Habitat for Humanity supporters filled an entire floor of golf bays at Topgolf St. Pete for our Golfing Fore Habitat Topgolf Challenge, presented by Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. In this new format, Habitat supporters swapped the traditional 4-5 hour golf tournament for a fun, fast-paced event that offered inclusivity for everyone. Whether you were a scratch golfer or never picked up a club, this golf event served all levels of talent. Mixed into the golf portion of our challenge were networking opportunities, team bonding, raffle prizes, exclusive silent auction items, and plenty of good food and drinks.



Our Golfing Fore Habitat Topgolf Challenge raised more than \$130,000 to support homeownership dreams for local families. On hand to interact with supporters and share their story was the Martinez Family. Single mom Gliseria and her three kids have partnered with Habitat to build their forever home. Each sponsor group and team had the opportunity to meet with Gliseria and hear a little bit about her journey through the Habitat homeownership program and what this Habitat Home will mean for her and her family.

2024 WOMEN BUILD RAISES OVER \$60K FOR TWO WOMEN-LED FAMILIES



Habitat's 2024 Women Build took on similar characteristics of our annual CEO Build - uniting local female leaders to help two single moms achieve the dream of homeownership. 25 women in leadership came together at Habitat's Longlake Preserve townhome community, which features 54 affordable townhome units. These leaders helped build homes for the Glenn and Six Families.



This Women Build was led by Honorary Co-Chairs Heather Ford and Marsha Droste. Over two Leader Build Days the women installed floor boards, door frames and doors. They also raised over \$60,000 to support the build of these two homes. The Glenn and Six Families will move into their new townhomes in the early part of 2025.

We can't wait for the 2025 Women Build!



Habitat Accolades

Habitat recognized as a One Tampa Bay Honoree for the 6th consecutive year

The Tampa Bay Business Journal once again recognizes Habitat for Humanity Tampa Bay Gulfside as a One Tampa Bay honoree for the 6th consecutive year in a row. The program honors the businesses and organizations that stand out for their work in the community and their fiscal management. We are honored to be recognized alongside our community partners and fellow Tampa Bay nonprofit organizations.

Thirty-two local nonprofit organizations and businesses have been named this year's honorees for the Tampa Bay Business Journal's One Tampa Bay awards. The two awards programs were combined to honor the companies and nonprofits that go above and beyond giving back to the Tampa Bay community. Nominees came from across the Tampa Bay area: Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota counties. A Business Journal judging panel reviewed various factors, including how much a nonprofit's expenses directly benefit programs and how well a company's philanthropic efforts reach its intended goals.



AMPLIFY Clearwater 2024 Business Excellence Award

Members of our team were on hand on Friday, September 13th at the AMPLIFY Clearwater Annual Awards at Ruth Eckerd Hall, where Habitat received the Amplify Clearwater 2024 Business Excellence Award! This award recognized the highest performing business of 25+ employees involved with the Clearwater chamber.

USF Fast 56 Awards

On Friday, September 13th, Habitat for Humanity Tampa Bay Gulfside was honored with its 2nd consecutive USF Fast 56 Award. The Fast 56 identifies, recognizes, and celebrates the world's fastest-growing USF Bull-owned or Bull-led businesses. The awards celebrate their success while providing a forum to pass lessons to the next generation of Bull entrepreneurs. Habitat Board Chair Heather Ford, Habitat President and CEO Mike Sutton, and Habitat Chief People and Culture Officer Todd St. John-Fulton are USF Alumni.



Habitat Happenings

Staff Outing

Habitat Busch Gardens Trip

On Monday, November 25th, our entire Habitat staff enjoyed a fun day at Busch Gardens in Tampa. This has become an annual trip for our team and its a date everyone circles on their calendars.

One of the best parts of this trip is staff members get to mingle with coworkers of different departments and often new friendships are formed from a day like this.



Staff Accolades

NAACP Award

Mike Sutton Recognized with 2024 NAACP President's Award

Congratulations to Habitat president and CEO Mike Sutton on receiving the 2024 NAACP President's Award!

During Mike's time as our president and CEO nearly 80% of the homes we have built annually are purchased by people of color. At Habitat we are intentional in our work to help people of all backgrounds achieve the dream of homeownership. This award is a significant honor for Mike and the entire Habitat team.



PRSA Tampa Bay PRestige Awards

Habitat wins 2024 Award of Excellence

Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Tampa Bay presented Habitat with the PRestige Award of Excellence for our organization's 900th Home Campaign. This award highlighted Habitat's ability to fundraise for a special event, promote on social media and engagement across traditional media platforms, as well as bringing the community together to celebrate this milestone home.



 **Habitat for Humanity**
Tampa Bay Gulfside

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FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2025
THE VINOY RESORT & GOLF CLUB



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AFTER PARTY CONCERT FEATURING



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!
HABITATTBG.ORG/GALA



2025 CEO BUILD
leaders working together
building homes, communities, and hope.

CEOs and business leaders across our community have joined together to build a safe and affordable home for a deserving family.

Honorary Hosts Mika & Brian Kleinschmidt from HGTV's 100 Day Dream Home invite you to support the Simmons Family on their journey to affordable homeownership. The CEO Build will be featured on Season 6 of 100 Day Dream Home!

LEARN HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:
habitat.org/ceobuild



honorary hosts

Mika & Brian
from HGTV's
100 Day Dream Home





Upcoming Events

Longlake Preserve Phase 1 Home Dedications
Happening Early 2025 - stay tuned for updates!

Save the Date: Signature Event

Nashville Nights Gala

Friday, April 4th, 2025 | The Vinoy Resort & Golf Club

how to get involved



Apply



Donate



Volunteer



Advocate



Habitat for Humanity
Tampa Bay Gulfside

visit us

Construction Warehouse & Education Center
13355 49th St N, Suite B Clearwater, FL 33762

Administrative HQ
14010 Roosevelt Blvd, Suite 704 Clearwater, FL 33762

Hernando County Office
15588 Aviation Loop Dr, Suite 2 Brooksville, FL 34604

(727) 536-4755 | habitattbg.org

Pasco County Office
7237 Little Road, New Port Richey, FL 34654

St. Pete Resource Center
1350 22nd St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

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