



Habitat Affiliates provide jobs and leverage public and private funds

Locally, Habitat has helped 1,277 families in Lee & Hendry Counties own their own homes!

Habitat for Humanity affiliates are nonprofit housing ministries that provide decent, affordable homes for low-income Floridians. Habitat's 58 affiliates in Florida are separately incorporated organizations that build or renovate homes through partnership with the community and sell the homes at no-profit, financed with a 0% interest mortgage. Habitat bolsters the local economy, creates jobs and strengthens some of Florida's most at-risk communities.

State funds provided to Habitat for Humanity are the best kind of investment in Florida's future! Why? Habitat generates construction/subcontractor jobs, makes it possible for low-income families to own a home, revitalize neighborhoods, produce tax revenue for local governments, and help build safe and secure neighborhoods.

In partnership with funding programs like SHIP (State Housing Initiative Program), Habitat can revitalize local economies, generate jobs and give Florida's most vulnerable citizens a lasting hand up, multiplying the positive impact on Florida's economy and jobs. The absence of SHIP funding and the reduction of other sources during the economic downturn has had a significant impact on Habitat's ability to deliver needed home rehabilitation or provide new affordable housing. The need in Florida has never been greater.

Much more must be done; we're proud of what's been accomplished so far:

- Last year, Habitat homeowners paid approximately \$8 million in city, county, school board and other property taxes.
- Our Florida affiliates build more than 20 percent of all the Habitat homes constructed each year in the United States.
- In 2011, Florida Habitat affiliates built, recycled, rehabbed and repaired 1,120 homes - over the years, 15,000 homes in all; the most Habitat homes in the United States.
- Habitat affiliates have expanded beyond traditional homebuilding to acquire and rehabilitate vacant/foreclosed housing stock and provide critical home repairs and weatherization for existing homeowners including returning veterans.
- Local jobs are provided in Habitat Florida's 60+ "ReStores." ReStores sell reusable and surplus building materials, furniture, and appliances to the public – funding more homes with proceeds.
- In addition to a down payment and monthly mortgage payments, homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor building their Habitat home and the homes of others.
- Monthly mortgage payments are "recycled" to build more Habitat homes.
- Habitat for Humanity offers the community an opportunity to work together as volunteers to raise awareness of housing issues across the state.
- With new homeowner status, many families no longer need assistance or other costly services from the state or other nonprofits.