



FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

Faith, Family, Framework

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Fall 2009

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A Story of Success

It's no secret the Sunshine state has teetered at the top of foreclosure filings in the country. Halfway through 2009, Florida's foreclosure rate hit third in the United States, according to California-based RealtyTrac (Nevada was number one with Arizona quickly following in second). And while home prices continue to plunge, Florida's unemployment rate is reciprocating the trend; reporting a 10.7% jobless rate just six months into the year. Only California and North Carolina have higher numbers. The coupling of unemployment and foreclosures, has sent Floridian's in a state of panic.

Connie Dempster was just one homeowner in fear of foreclosure with Habitat after losing her job as a Medical Receptionist in May 2008. Dempster says after spending seven years with a pediatrics clinic, she found unemployment devastating. "It was literally the hardest time in my life! I was overqualified for jobs looking to hire, but I had my family, bills and a mortgage to support. With that kind of responsibility, I had little time to be discouraged, I needed a job fast," says Dempster.

In November 2008, Habitat for Humanity of Lee County created a maintenance division to provide homeowners in need of work with part time employment. Since then, the division has served as a saving grace for dozens of hardworking homeowners while providing more than 50 individuals and businesses with a service that rivals in price and quality with trained professionals.

It was May of this year when Dempster joined the division. "Because of my computer experience, Habitat hired me as a cashier in their Thrift Store. I priced items, set up donation pickups, furniture deliveries, filed paperwork and directed volunteers who came in to help," she explains. "On the side, I kept applying for jobs and went on every interview I had the chance to," Dempster says with excitement building in her voice. Three months later, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists of SW Florida hired Dempster as a Checkout Specialist. "It was a true blessing! Everyone at Habitat was so excited for me. I did what the program was set up to do and succeeded. That felt so good," Dempster exclaims.

Your dollars and support continue to help Habitat find affordable housing options for deserving families in Lee County. Thank you for helping Habitat make another dream a reality in the community.



Positive, Pragmatic & Proactive

in difficult times

In the last year, giving in the United States has dropped \$6.4 billion; a 2.2% decline and the largest since 1987 (Giving USA, Center on Philanthropy). Despite the economic conditions, individuals, corporations and foundations still mustered up \$307 billion for charitable causes and analysts speculate 2009 giving will remain the same. At Habitat for Humanity of Lee County, giving

this year is about doing more with less, hope for the future and taking risks that could result in big rewards down the road. The financial crisis has created an opportunity for our organization to look at operations with a fresh perspective and create additional ways for you to support the cause.

Meaningful Gifts Catalog

Watch your mailbox in the coming weeks for our "Meaningful Gifts" Catalog. We invite you to visualize the impact of your giving through these 'gifts'. The catalog offers 'gifts' you can select for family and friends to honor an important occasion. These 'gifts' are actually a list of supplies necessary for Habitat to rehabilitate homes in the community. By making a gift donation that equates to the cost of these supplies, you are participating in an act of stewardship to Habitat for Humanity of Lee County and to those in whose name you are giving the gift. The recipient of your gift will receive an appropriate holiday or special occasion gift card in your name. Please use this gift-giving catalog to incorporate Habitat for Humanity of Lee County in your holiday gift giving.



Bandits, Guns & Automobiles • November 23, 2009 Lunch & Presentation • Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre

Make your reservations now for an exciting presentation by Jeff Mahl, great grandson of the 1908 New York to Paris Great Automobile Race winner. Mahl will share his first hand experience with the Thomas Flyer and its driver, his great grandfather George Schuster. Seating is reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis, including a full buffet selection of meat entrees, salads, vegetables, and desserts. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Lee County. Call 239-652-0434 to get your tickets now.

Holiday Wish List

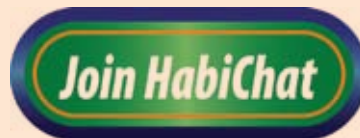
Individuals often ask what they can "gift" to Habitat for Humanity of Lee County. In the spirit of the season a brief list is provided for you below. If you are able to provide one or more of the items please contact Habitat's Development Department at (239) 652-0434 x 1677 for details, or more suggestions:

- 2-drawer & 4-drawer fireproof file cabinets
- Commercial vacuum cleaner
- FAX Machines for various departments
- Pallet Jack
- Pricing guns for the Thrift Shops
- Two (2) Dell PowerConnect 2748 Switches
- Dell SP1908FP 19-ince monitors
- Various industrial-level power tools
- Handicap accessible picnic table
- Paper-folding machine
- Commemorative Home Sponsor Plaque

Show Your Habitat Pride.



Check out Habitat's official gift shop, where you'll find a collection of inspiring apparel and gifts. Support Habitat's cause by sporting one of our labeled items today! Plus, 2010 calendars are now available! Get a jump start on the new year by ordering your calendar today. Habitat's gift shop is located in the North Fort Myers office at 1288 N. Tamiami Trail.



Join our e-mail list and be the first to know what Habitat's up to each month! The first of every month, Habitat for Humanity of Lee County releases an e-newsletter that gives subscribers the latest news on upcoming activities and a follow-up after an event. To sign up, visit www.habitat4humanity.org. Scroll down on the front page of Habitat's web site and you'll find a button to join 'HabiChat', our monthly e-newsletter.



Take a Tour With Us

In the last year, Habitat for Humanity of Lee County has prepared for the downturn in the economy by making adjustments to some key operations. Today, these changes have paved the way for several Habitat affiliates to keep their doors open and financials out of the red. It's also the reason why Lee County's Habitat chapter has helped more families this year than any other Habitat for Humanity affiliate in the world. If you haven't been to the Lee County Habitat campus in the last year, you'll want to sign up fast for a Habitat 101, where we divulge the latest on what's keeping this Habitat chapter on top. Plus, during the hour class, take a tour of our 10+ acre campus, located in North Fort Myers. Here is a list of dates and times for upcoming classes.

RSVP and we'll save you a seat! 239-652-0434 ext: 1678

Thursday, October 8 @ 3pm
Saturday, October 24 @ 9am
Thursday, November 5 @ 3pm
Saturday, November 21 @ 9am
Saturday, December 5 @ 9am
Thursday, December 17 @ 3pm
Saturday, January 9 @ 9am
Thursday, January 21 @ 3pm

'Tis The Season To Shop With Us!

Browse and buy collectibles at Habitat's Live Art Auction; featuring limited edition and reproductions of artist's works, with all proceeds benefiting Habitat.

November 6, 2009

Clarion Hotel
12635 S. Cleveland Avenue • Fort Myers, Florida

6:00pm Social Hour/Hors d'oeuvres • 7:00pm Auction

Cash bar, framed work, sports and Hollywood memorabilia

\$20.00 per ticket, \$30.00 for two
Call 239.652.0434 x 1678 to purchase

Businesses can sponsor event or provide raffle items
\$100, \$250, \$500 levels • Call for additional details.



Help bring awareness to the number of children and families left homeless this year by purchasing a chance to win a playhouse for a lucky child! Volunteers will build the miniature 'homes of hope' and have them placed around Lee County during the holiday season.

Get a glimpse of the playhouses by following Habitat's web site in the coming months to find out where these mini homes of hope will be placed. www.habitat4humanity.org Purchase tickets at Habitat's office; 239-652-0434.

Support Habitat's mission through your Christmas purchases by shopping with gift cards that donate back! Through ServeNation, Habitat's web site offers dozens of entertainment, dining, grocery, automotive, travel and shopping gift cards at no additional cost. Plus, customers receive FREE

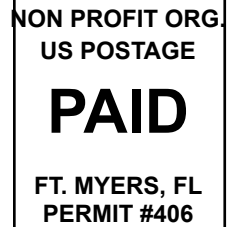
shipping on any choice of cards while a portion of the gift card purchase will go to support Habitat for Humanity of Lee County. Shop with gift cards for everyday needs or buy cards as gifts and help Habitat house deserving families! www.habitat4humanity.org/purchasewithpurpose



SUPPORT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF LEE COUNTY.



1288 N. Tamiami Trail
North Fort Myers, Florida 33903
www.habitat4humanity.org



Current Resident or

MAILING LABEL MUST
COVER THIS TEXT

7 Years and Countin[★]



Habitat for Humanity of Lee County tops the non-profit nation in fiscal responsibility, according to Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities. The Lee County Habitat chapter received a 4-star rating, the highest rating offered, for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances for the seventh year in a row.

"Only 2% of the charities we rate have received at least 7 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Habitat for Humanity of Lee County, Florida consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This rating differentiates Habitat for Humanity of Lee County, Florida from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust," says Charity Navigator President and CEO Ken Berger.

Forbes, Business Week, and Kiplinger's Financial Magazine, among others, relies on Charity Navigator's evaluations when analyzing financials in the charitable sector. Charity Navigator's data shows that last year donors gave an estimated \$10 billion more in charitable gifts after evaluating non-profit balance sheets with Charity Navigator.