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SNAP TO VIEW

Your Habitat Search is just an app away. Snap the code to view Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties website. If you don't have an app on your mobile device, simply download a QR code reader application to your phone. Once downloaded, access the app and snap a picture of the bar code to be connected.

Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties is an affiliate of Habitat International. A percentage of all contributions made to us goes to help build homes throughout the world.



Milestones in Habitat's Recovery Work in Haiti

Soon after the earthquake in Haiti, Habitat for Humanity set a goal of serving 50,000 families over five years, helping families to move toward safer, more secure, permanent places to call home. One year into that five-year plan, many milestones have been accomplished.

- 21,000 Emergency Shelter Kits
- 2,000 Families Assisted
- More than 2,000 housing damage assessments have been conducted
- More than 500 Haitians have been trained in earthquake-resistant construction techniques
- More than 200 Haitians have been hired by the Habitat Resource Centers to build shelters

Decent shelter improves the quality of life for Haitian families. A stable home is critical to their good health and effective education.



Everest Build 2010 in Nepal

Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties' volunteers, Bob and Joanne Syverson began their Nepal adventure this past fall when they boarded their flight with luggage crammed with tools: hammers, saws, tool belts, pliers, screwdrivers, chisels, etc. They were joined there by 460 volunteers from around the world.

The house they built had a bamboo frame to which they added additional vertical bamboo pieces and then wove bamboo walls. When finished, the bamboo walls were mudded and painted. Corrugated steel sheets were added to the roof. The whole structure measured 18 by 18-feet and had three small rooms plus a covered porch. There was no indoor plumbing or electricity.

After an intense build over six consecutive days, the international team, plus local support, was able to build 42 houses. The Syversen's said, "We made a lot of friends during our stay and are amazed at the camaraderie and giving attitude of those we met."

HABITAT HAPPENINGS

Faith, Family, Framework

Spring 2011

Dream of Home Ownership Becomes Reality



Jeanelle builds a better lifestyle for her babies!

Jeanelle Flatt, a single mom with three adorable children, wants nothing more than to raise her family in a safe environment. A year ago, Jeanelle set out to fulfill that desire for her and her little ones, Jennalyn, five, Jenevaeh, four, and Jesse James, one.

"I want to raise my babies in a secure environment, where they can grow into healthy, happy children. I want a better life style for them and a real home in a neighborhood where they can safely play outside," commented Jeanelle.

Jeanelle's life has changed tremendously over the past 12 months. She was without a home and then lived in a neighborhood where crime was prevalent. Constantly fearing for her children, Jeanelle reached out to the LIFT Program through Lee County Human Services. This was a big step for her. They helped her to set goals for specific areas of her life. One of her priorities was to find a safe place for her children.

"I have not had a problem setting goals for my life, I have had problems in following through. Through the LIFT Program, I learned not only how to set goals but a step-by-step process to reach them," Jeanelle commented.

Features:

- Page 1: Jeanelle Flatt Builds a Better Life
- Page 2: Many Thanks for Help Given
- Page 3: PGA Partnership & Trantinas Sponsor a Home
- Page 4: Builds in Progress

Not wanting to settle for her current living situation, she made the decision to explore purchasing a Habitat home. She had thought about it before, but with her new-found confidence and goal-setting training she decided to apply. In November, 2010 she contacted Habitat and became a homeowner candidate.



In four months, in addition to a 60-hour work week, Jeanelle completed her 250 sweat equity hours and her homeowner classes. Family members helped out with some of her hours. Along with the Habitat staff, her sisters were her biggest fans. With their help, her determination paid off.

On March 11, 2011, she signed her mortgage documents with cheers and clapping throughout the Habitat office. She now feels better about herself and her abilities since accomplishing the steps to homeownership.

When we asked how she felt about her home she said, "I was so excited about this house; I literally skipped through each room. My babies are most excited about having their very own yard to play in. Jennalyn and Jenevaeh each have their own tree in the backyard. Jenevaeh even named hers. They really love riding their bikes, and I love knowing it is safe. Even as young as the girls are, they wanted to participate in decorating their rooms. One wanted pink paint and the other turquoise. Both wanted butterflies."

Learning about giving back to the community and helping others was another lesson Jeanelle learned in her journey. Even though she has completed her sweat equity hours, she is determined to come back to Habitat and help other families reach their dreams. She tells everyone about the program and claims, "Habitat for Humanity is the best. It gives you hope and truly helps your dreams come true."

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- Page 7: Donor Appreciation
- Page 8: International Update



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Adversity Brings Out Friends



Chinese Drywall is Remediated

George Washington said that, "Friendship is a plant of slow growth and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation." It is rewarding to know that Habitat's relationship with our friends is strong, as evidenced by the reaction to the discovery last fall of Chinese drywall in some of our homes.

Initially, the realization that 24 homes built by Habitat between the years 2006 and 2009, contained the problematic drywall imported from China was very tough news for our affiliate, as it was for the homeowners involved. Habitat's Board of Directors quickly decided that the right thing to do was to stand by our homeowners and fix their homes, but it was clear that this would be a difficult and costly endeavor. It soon was determined that insurance would not cover the issue and that it was highly unlikely that the manufacturer could be held accountable.



Habitat Adds Hendry to Name

Habitat for Humanity of Lee County has partnered with 28 Hendry County families in their pursuit of affordable homeownership since 2001. In an effort to more fully serve Hendry County families, Habitat for Humanity of Lee County officially changed its name to Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties.

CEO and President Kitty Green commented, "This decision to expand the name is a natural progression of our mission and conveys our commitment to Hendry County low-income families."

But true friends are there to lend a hand when you are down, and as soon as we announced the news, help began to materialize. Various experts helped us to learn about Chinese drywall and the currently accepted protocols for its remediation. It was necessary to remove everything from the affected homes and Jim Magnus at the Bonita Storage Inn offered to store everything at a fraction of the normal retail cost. Lee County found a way to access owner-occupied rehabilitation funds from its State Housing Initiative Partnership, which will reimburse Habitat for some of the costs. Board member Shawn McIntyre secured a \$100,000 donation from a Foundation that wishes to be anonymous and Habitat supporters to date have contributed another \$42,575, specifically to help us rehabilitate the homes with Chinese drywall. In total, our friends have helped us cover at least half of the estimated cost!

Currently Habitat has work underway on eleven of the affected homes. The process requires removal and replacement of everything inside the home, including the drywall, insulation, wiring, and air conditioning duct work. It's a big job, but nearly 150 of our friends responded to the need by volunteering to help with the demolition and/or reconstruction. We hope to have seven of the homes completed by the first of April and ready for the homeowners to move back in. This has of course been a very difficult issue for the affected homeowners, but together we have made it work.

Thank you, friends. You have helped Habitat for Humanity turn adversity into another reason to be grateful for our gifts.

State Housing Initiatives Partnership

(SHIP) Funding Threatened

Habitat affiliates all over Florida have depended on SHIP as a critical source of funding for home construction and repair. Money for the SHIP program comes from a small fee on document stamps. In recent years, state lawmakers have reallocated this trust money to the general fund to balance the budget and this is likely to occur again this year. Please let your legislator know that affordable housing is important to you and that you support reinstatement of full SHIP funding.

Due to this shortage in SHIP funding, Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties is even more dependent on our donors for support of our mission. Please email susiee@habitat4humanity.org for further information.

In Appreciation

Individuals, businesses, and houses of worship continue with their generous support of our mission. Thank you to the following supporters who provided donations from October, 2010 through February, 2011. Please visit our website and view our Premier Builder Clubs under "Support Habitat."

Corporate Community Sponsor

Northern Trust

Planned Community Partners

Shadow Wood (3 home sponsorships)

Home Builders Club

The Copham Family Foundation

Master Builder Club

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel J. Berkold Habitat for Humanity Fund, a fund of the Southwest

Florida Community Foundation

Mrs. Dorothy Richardson

Foundation Club

Colonial Roofing

Ms. Dorothy Farley

Mr. & Mrs. Owen Glantz

Mr. & Mrs. Shawn McIntyre

Whirlpool Corp

Craig & Beverly Miller Family Foundation

The Fernandez Family Foundation

Ken Sneed & Associates LLC

Valspar Corp

Wall Builder Club

Mr. Edward Beimfohr

Christain Stewardship Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Courtney

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Florida Repertory Theatre

GolfTEC

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Ms. Linda Meyerholz

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Mr. & Mrs. John Ross, Jr.

Mr. Raj Singh

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Theisen, Jr.

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Yale Residential Security Systems

Shadow Wood Country Club

St. Michaels & All Angels Church

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Benson

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Boyd

Ms. Betty Cracknell

Florida Gulf Bank

Ms. Birgit Chedina

Mr. George Herscher

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Mr. & Mrs. Ray Kostelc

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Richard B Olmstead Trust

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Mr. & Mrs. Denni Rehak

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Iona-Hope Episcopal Church

Framing Club

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Mr. & Mrs. William Delayo

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Northern Tool

Mr. & Mrs. George Reider

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Raymond Building Supply Corp.

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Legacy Society

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Mr. & Mrs. David Davis

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Ms. E. Jean Sutherland

Mr. & Mrs. John Blomquist

Ms. Adele Chesser

Ms. Catherine Donalson

Mr. & Mrs. George Magnant

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Molnar

Ms. Donna Smith

We Need Your Help

Habitat's Thrift Store

Shop with Us! Donations Needed!



Shoppers this is the place to find great buys.

The Thrift Store is in need of donations of sturdy shelving for construction items and display purposes, home improvement and household items, building materials and kitchen cabinets. We do pick up donations that are large in size.

Your donations are appreciated and every dollar you spend helps Habitat to provide affordable housing for those in need.

Call (239) 652-0388 for further information.
31 Willis Road, North Fort Myers, FL 33903
Open Tuesday thru Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Donate a car to Cars for Homes — Habitat for Humanity's car donation program

Help a family in your community build a house and the hope of a better life by donating a car, truck, boat or RV to Cars for Homes™ — Habitat's official car donation program.

Call (877) 277-4344 toll-free to donate a vehicle.

Volunteer Opportunities

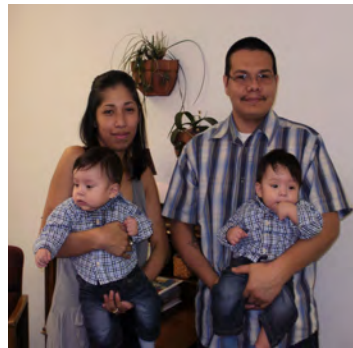
Habitat for Humanity offers many volunteer opportunities. Below you will find a list of just a few of the rewarding teams that you can partner with.

- Interior Demo Crew
- Exterior Demo Crew
- Rehab Crew
- Warehouse
- Filing
- Thrift Store
- Paint Shop
- Office Work
- Special Events
- Fundraising

Volunteers help us achieve our goal of providing affordable home ownership to low-income families. If you would like to be a part of the Habitat Volunteer Team, please register online at www.habitat4humanity.org.



Home Dedication at Renaissance at Rosemary Park



Recently, Habitat staff, Jesus Rangel, Naomi Cerritos and their adorable twin boys, Isaac and Damian celebrated their new home in a dedication ceremony at Renaissance at Rosemary Park. Family members and friends shared in the excitement. Naomi said, "We are so thankful for the hospitality and the help that Habitat has given us so that we could have our own home."

The Rangel and Cerritos dedication was the first of four homes recently purchased along with 12 buildable lots in Renaissance at Rosemary Park. Habitat is pleased to expand their presence in Bonita Springs.

Kitty Green, CEO and President of Habitat stated, "One of the few silver linings in this recession is that we can now afford to acquire real estate in areas that were formerly out of reach. For many years Habitat wanted to own more property in Bonita so that we could serve more families there, and now we are able to do that. Hard-working families with low incomes will really benefit from this."

Homeowner Orientation Attendance Triples

Families interested in becoming Habitat homeowners are invited to a homeowner orientation meeting where they receive information on Habitat's program requirements. Families register to attend the orientation meeting by filling out an interest form.

Vice President of Family Services Tanya Soholt said, "We are seeing an increase in the number of families wishing to become Habitat homeowners. Attendance at our orientation meetings has tripled since the first of the year. We received more than 100 interest forms last month, and it is our mission to do all we can to help as many qualified families as possible find a decent, affordable home. The challenge we face now is to raise the funds needed to meet this need."

For further information on Family Services or for an interest form, call (239) 652-1681 or visit our www.habitat4humanity.org.

Safe, Affordable Rental Units in Lee County for Seniors age 55 and older!



Leasing opportunities are currently available for senior adults who need affordable housing. Please call (239) 652-4663 to learn more about Habitat for Humanity's Senior Housing Complex. Visit www.habitatseniorhousing.org for further information.

Not a Senior - Ask about our low-income rental opportunities for couples or a single occupant. Call (239) 652-4663 for further information.

Jim and Mary Hamilton Donate Monthly

Jim and Mary Hamilton are residents of Pennsylvania and they live in Fort Myers at Heritage Palms during some of the winter months. They have been faithful supporters of our mission by making their monthly donation to Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties through an automatic deduction on their credit card. Jim likes this simple way of donating for three reasons:

- It gets done every month automatically
- He receives miles and points on his credit card
- He receives the Habitat for Humanity newsletter

Jim was enthusiastic about how much he enjoys the newsletter stories about the people who become home owners. He was even more enthusiastic about the pictures.

"We live North, but we wanted to help the local people. I have always thought Habitat is an organization that gives people the chance to really understand the joy of giving back. It's life changing, not just for the family but to the person who gives the gift and to the volunteers who work," said Jim, with a gentle tone of understanding in his voice.

The Hamilton's first learned of Habitat's mission here in Lee and Hendry Counties while attending Covenant Presbyterian Church. Jim simply picked up a brochure at a Habitat missions table one Sunday morning and they've been giving ever since.



Easter is a beautiful time to celebrate spring. Many of you are preparing to return to your northern homes where new life is emerging. The tulips and crocus will poke their heads through the rich dark soil that has served as their nourishment and protection through the winter months. The robins and bluebirds are returning to prepare their nests for the next generation of chicks. As the Easter holiday draws near, your homes will be prepared for worship and family.

Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties is also about preparing homes. We have the singular mission of providing a simple decent place to live for those in need of affordable housing solutions. The spirit of the season reminds us that our mission reflects the Easter message of redemption. It is a time of hope.

We have committed to serving 70 families in 2011. This is an ambitious goal driven by the overwhelming need in our community. It requires much faith, prayer and financial support. We ask that you remember our partner families who are waiting to be liberated from the burdensome housing costs this Easter season.



PGA Partners with Habitat

This fall South Florida PGA Professionals will trade in their golf clubs for paint brushes when they begin work on a Habitat for Humanity home in Lee County. On February 18, 2011, the South Florida PGA Foundation awarded Habitat for Humanity of Lee County a \$50,000 grant for the rehabilitation of a home in south Lee County, Florida.

The South Florida PGA Foundation has been working on smaller charitable campaigns for many years, but this year under the direction of a new Foundation Board, decided to strive for a major campaign with a national partner. Habitat for Humanity of Lee County was chosen as the first Habitat affiliate to partner with the South Florida PGA Foundation. "This is a very exciting relationship we have formed with Habitat, allowing the South Florida PGA Foundation to achieve one of its goals of giving back to each county in our Section. We are happy that the Lee County affiliate is the first affiliate and we are looking forward to developing a solid relationship," stated South Florida PGA Foundation President and PGA Professional, Tom Wildenhaus.

Kitty Green, President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity commented, "We are very excited about this partnership because we know it will have a lasting impact on a family's life. PGA recognizes that our current method of rehabilitating an existing home rather than building new, is the best way to help Lee County reduce the number of abandoned and foreclosed homes in the community."



Trantinas with Chapel by the Sea Volunteers & Habitat Staff

Gerry and Sharon Trantina recently made the decision to personally sponsor a Habitat for Humanity home. Habitat celebrated with the Trantinas and Chapel by the Sea volunteers on March 17, 2011, at 15300 Straight Street, Fort Myers, Florida.

Gerry Trantina and his wife had been considering for quite some time sponsoring a home for a deserving family in Lee County. Gerry said, "I was motivated by the work being done on Thursdays with my team from Chapel by the Sea. We have fun, I see the progress and the demand for homeownership is up. Instead of making a small donation, I thought; why not make a large one?" A Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties' home sponsorship is a donation commitment of \$50,000. This supports the creation of a home for a family willing to partner with Habitat to achieve an affordable housing solution. Mr. Trantina, General Electric retiree, accessed matching funds to support this effort.

Gerry Trantina has been volunteering at Habitat construction sites in Lee County every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. sharp for more than ten years. He drives the Chapel by the Sea of Fort Myers Beach minibus, and picks up twelve or thirteen other loyal volunteers who are willing to spend the day working for others.

Chapel by the Sea has a long history with Habitat and Harlem Heights, where the first Habitat home was dedicated in 1980. Many Harlem Heights homeowners, who were unable to meet the requirements of Lee County building codes in the late seventies, were faced with demolition of their homes and loss of their community. The urgency of this situation caught the attention of a Chapel by the Sea of Fort Myers Beach congregation member who also served on the Lee County Mission Board.

Through the collaborative effort of the Lee County Mission Board, Chapel by the Sea of Fort Myers Beach congregation members and community support, Habitat for Humanity of Lee County became an affiliate of the international organization in October 1982. Since that time, Habitat has served more than 1,164 families.

If you are interested in sponsoring a home, please call Susie Ellis at (239) 652-1695, or email susiee@habitat4humanity.org.



Kitty Green celebrates with sponsor Robbie Roepstorff of Edison National Bank

On March 10, CEO Kitty Green kicked off the launch of the 2011 Women Build at an event sponsored by Northern Trust. Nearly 80 women joined her to learn about the plans to raise the \$50,000 sponsorship fee and perform the rehabilitation for a home for a deserving family. By the end of the evening, more than half of the sponsorship fee had been raised.

Women Build is an annual happening for Habitats across the nation in the week leading up to Mother's Day. The purpose is to acknowledge the profound impact that safe, decent, affordable housing has on the lives of women and to engage women in both the advocacy for and the physical process of creating that housing.

In Lee County, the Women Build goal is to raise the \$50,000 sponsorship fee in March and April and then rehab a home for a deserving family in the first week of May. The rehab will require approximately 100 volunteer shifts, so each volunteer shift can be earned by giving or raising \$500. Working on the rehab is not required and any dollar amount contributed will help. There are also opportunities for teams

We Need You!

This season three families will be the beneficiaries of special theme builds designed to engaged particular groups of Habitat supporters. Your support is needed – please join us for one or more of these projects! To learn more, please call Karen Quanstrom, Director of Special Projects, (239) 652.1677 or e-mail karenq@habitat4humanity.org.

Volunteers Unite!

The building of this home is a celebration of all volunteers that have raised walls, set trusses, hung windows, spackled, painted or sided! Loyal volunteers are invited to sponsor a home for a family.

We appreciate the willingness of our volunteers to embrace our re-build program, which involves rehabilitating existing homes at a significant cost savings and benefit to surrounding neighborhoods. However, we know you miss the romance of raising those walls, so this Volunteer Build will be from the ground up! In addition to constructing the house, Volunteers will raise the \$50,000 sponsorship fee.

of friends or business associates to get together and raise larger amounts and then work together.

We need your help! For more information about the Women Build or to donate visit www.Habitat4Humanity.org and click on Get Involved.

Early supporters of the Women Build include:

General Contractors (\$5,000)

Lowe's
Edison National Bank
Jeannie Steidel, ReMax Realty
Peggy Burt, Florida Land Title Services
Team 100 for \$100: Gail Markham,
Jennifer Berg, Neale Montgomery,
Stephanie Keyes
Team Edison: Kitty Cronin,
Sharon Kiesel, Jennifer Keene,
Albania Crosbie
Hammered House Sisters: Brenda Tate, Mary Moore,
Lou Pontius, Tonya Schrott, Linda Uhler
Nuviva Medical Weight Loss



Jeannie Steidel
Remax Realty

Sub-Contractors (2,500)

CRS Technology

Skilled Tradeswomen (\$1,000)

Realtor Association of Greater Fort Myers and the Beach
Lee Lucas
Sandy Stillwell, Stilwell Enterprises - Sunshine Seafood Café
Jeananne Folaros
4 Sisters: Evette Teal-Richardson, Cheryl King, Jacquie
Williams, Lorna Washington
Kitty Green

The House of Abraham

"Thank God we can agree on a nail and the use of a hammer as an instrument to manifest God's love." Millard Fuller, Founder, Habitat for Humanity.

Christians, Jews and Muslims are uniting to build a home for a Habitat partnering family. This build is designed to bring members of the three faiths of Abraham together to serve God's commandment to people of faith to give charitably. God commanded Abraham to teach his descendants to be right and just. This opportunity to provide a local family a place to raise their children reflects charity and provides an opportunity for us to display that we are right and just people in our respective traditions. As we share the experience of building a home together we will have the opportunity to meet neighbors we might not otherwise know.

Before we build, members of the faith community are challenged to raise \$50,000. As of this publication, we have \$21,000 raised and an additional \$5,000 in commitments. Your personal support of this Interfaith Initiative will raise a home and will build a stronger faith community.

Community Involvement

Shadow Wood



Shadow Wood, a golfing community in Bonita Springs, Florida recently held the 8th Annual Shadow Wood Golf Tournament to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity of Lee County. The evening banquet was sponsored by Fine Mark Bank and included a raffle, and live and silent auctions. This community-wide event raised more than \$123,000 which will provide more than two rehabilitated homes to Habitat for Humanity partnering families.

Since 2003, Shadow Wood residents have contributed \$960,000 to Habitat for Humanity. These contributions resulted in 17 families living the American dream of homeownership.

Verandah and First Bank



Verandah and First Bank hosted the 3rd Race the Roof 8K Run October 30, 2010. Runners and walkers joined in fall family festivities to raise \$22,700. 1st Bank, Gulfshore Dental and Riverdale Dental were major sponsors. Breakfast was prepared by Beef O'Brady's staff. Local businesses provided sponsorships and activities for children during the race. Riverdale High School Bank played for the runners as they crossed the finish line. This event will take place again on October 29, 2011. Details will be available on our website late summer.

Bonita Bay



Members of Bonita Bay are sponsoring a raffle to raise home sponsorships. Last year Bonita Bay raised more than \$100,000 from their raffle—a record raffle year! This year prizes have been donated by DuFrane Jewelers, Mondo Uomo Clothing, Aogstino's Furniture and Design, Roy's Hawaiian Fusion Restaurant and Trianon Bonita Bay Hotel.



Pelican Landing

Pelican Landing is also sponsoring a raffle and it is open to the public. This raffle was supported by Diamond District, Engels Bicycles, Pelican's Nest, Schwinn Travel, The Golf Guys, Weekends Sportswear and Cirella's Italian Grill. If you would like details on purchasing a ticket call Karen at (239) 652-1677.



Miromar Lakes

Miromar Lakes hosted a community golf tournament in March, followed by a dinner and festivities. Miromar Lakes Golf Club provided the dinner following the tournament and Miromar Lakes Beach Club House offered a raffle item to raise funds. Local businesses joined in support.

Board of Directors Exceeds their Goal



Board Secretary, Donny Andrews, Denmark Interiors

Habitat's Board of Directors set a \$50,000 sponsorship goal to begin a rehab of a home for a low-income family in Lee County. Not only did they meet their goal, they exceeded it.

With rehabs now making up the majority of the homes that Habitat is selling, the directors chose to get a more hands-on sense of the work that occurs on a rehabilitated home. On March 5, 2011, they joined together and traded their pens and pencils for paint brushes and hammers, and rehabbed a home to benefit a deserving local family.

Board Members hard at work! Sandy Robinson, Northern Trust and Duane Swanson, Raymond Building Supply

