

Hammer and Nails

Local Women Helped Family in Need



Executive Director of the St. Johns County Habitat for Humanity. "Their hard work helped make the dream of homeownership a reality for the Watkins Family."

The Watkins Family is overjoyed to have a place that they can truly call home. On top of moving frequently for Tina to find work, the family often lived in deplorable conditions over the years with poor plumbing, no heat, and broken appliances. Most recently the family was renting a mobile home which had a stove and oven that were not in working order for months.

Tina has five children, three of which are now adults and living on their own, and two of which live with Tina. Jessica is 17 years old and is thriving in the cosmetology program that she is enrolled in at St. Johns Technical High School. Jeremiah is 14 and working hard at his academics and is thrilled to be a part of the Scheidel Prep Club Program.

Welcome home Watkins Family!



As part of Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program, the St. Johns County affiliate and a crew of women volunteers and sponsors broke ground to begin construction on a new home for the Watkins family in late January 2011. The home is funded through partial sponsorships by the Scheidel Foundation of Ponte Vedra, St. Johns County, and the Housing Finance Authority. In addition to these generous sponsorships, the affiliate also received a \$5,000 grant from Lowe's that went towards purchasing construction materials for the home.

The Women Build program brings women from all walks of life together to learn construction skills and then use those skills to be part of the solution to poverty housing. More than 100 women volunteered their time from numerous businesses and organizations, as well as other individuals from the community.

"We are very excited about having these ladies work side by side with our partner family," said Diane Quick,

Did you know...

► **Habitat for Humanity International** has an extremely low foreclosure rate of about 1%, which is one of the lowest in the nation.

► **Habitat for Humanity International** is ranked as the sixth largest homebuilder in the United States with 6,032 closings in 2010, according to Builder magazine's annual survey. This is the second consecutive year Habitat has ranked in the top 10 on the list.



► **Habitat for Humanity of St. Johns County** has helped 88 families locally and 20 internationally escape the cycle of poverty housing. Run down and abandoned homes have been replaced by neat, new homes with well kept yards and happy families. Habitat homes are sold at no profit with a zero percent interest mortgage.

Get Involved!

Volunteers are truly the lifeblood of our organization. Without the help of many dedicated volunteers from the community, our affiliate would not be able to help 10 families a year escape the cycle of poverty housing. Thanks to the commitment of these outstanding volunteers, we have a program for building homes specifically for elderly and disabled individuals, we acquire building permits, land, and construction materials, and we build homes.

We are extremely thankful for the volunteers who have devoted their time and talents to Habitat over the years, but we always have room for more! Contact us at 826.3252 if you're interested in volunteering on the build site, in our office, or at the ReStore.

SAVE THE DATE



December 8, 2011

6 – 10 pm

The River House

Please join us for our annual major fundraiser!
Call the Habitat office at 826-3252 to reserve your spot today!

A Home of Their Own

Elizabeth Pommer applied for a Habitat home in March 2010. Being 70 years old, she was very concerned that she would not be able to complete the sweat equity requirements. With the help of four of her children and many Habitat volunteers,

Elizabeth is a single parent of five adult children. One of her children, Patricia, lives with Elizabeth in their new Habitat home. Patricia is disabled, but despite this, she was an enormous help to Elizabeth in building their new home. Patricia enjoyed learning lots of new skills on the work site and loved being part of this amazing experience.



Elizabeth was able to fulfill her hours in no time at all. Not only did she complete her sweat equity hours, but she also learned that she is capable of so much more than she ever thought possible. She hammered nails, painted walls, and helped frame her new home and those of her new neighbors. Her confidence has grown immensely and she now feels ready to tackle the responsibilities that come along with maintaining one's own home.

This is the first home that Elizabeth has ever owned and it was dedicated to her on April 30, 2011. As the dedication ended, Elizabeth and Patricia invited in their guests and proudly showed how they have truly made their house into a home. All of Elizabeth's children, their spouses, and her grandchildren were there to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Elizabeth has devoted 16 years to Wal-Mart working in the Customer Service department. In all those years, she never imagined that she could possibly own her own home. Thanks to Habitat and the support of many donors and volunteers, Elizabeth's dream of homeownership has finally become a reality.