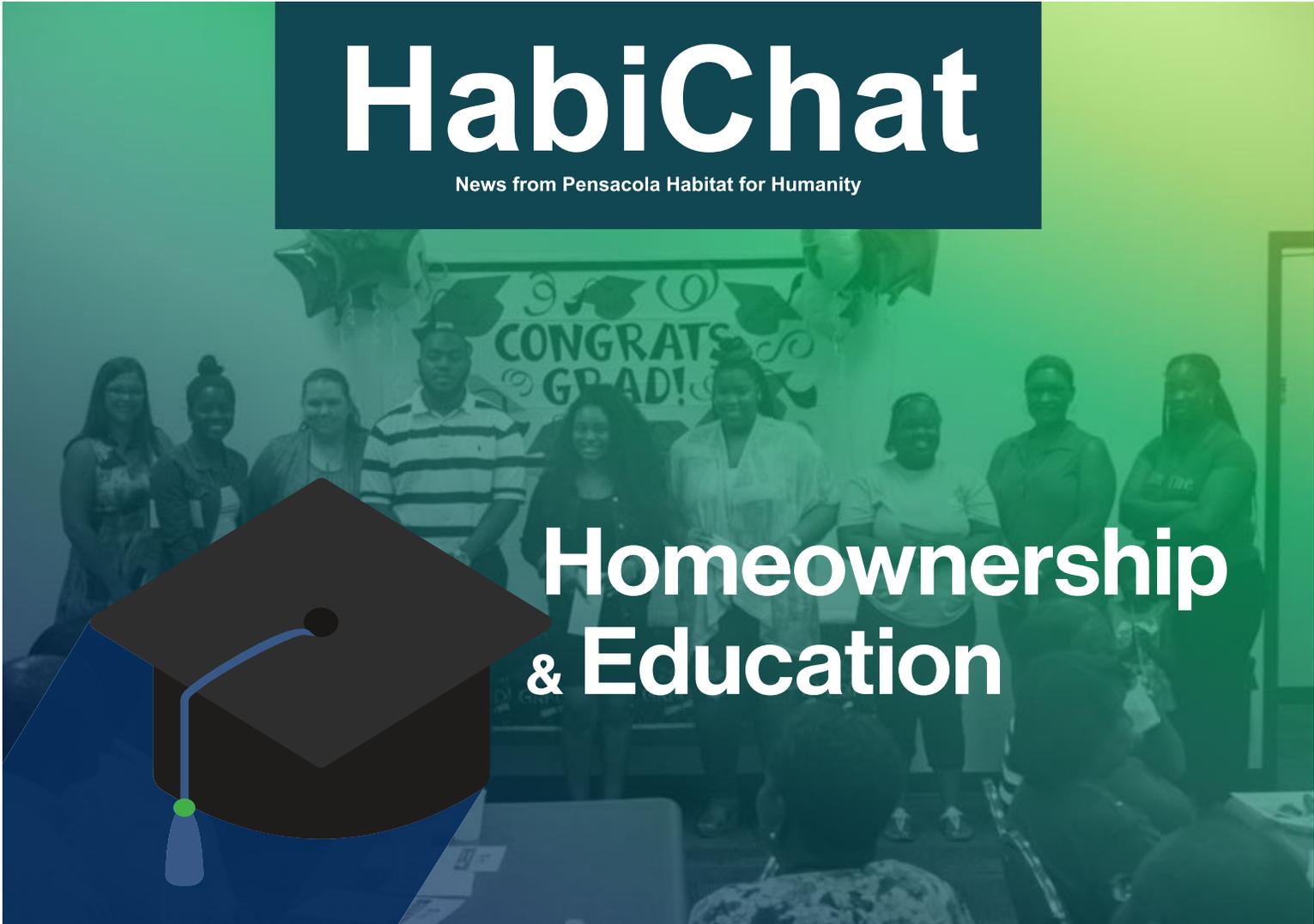


# HabiChat

News from Pensacola Habitat for Humanity



## Homeownership & Education

Here at Pensacola Habitat for Humanity, our mission is to build homes, community, and hope for the people of Escambia County and Santa Rosa County. But, what happens after all the building? Being in a stable home does a great deal of good for a family. Once a family is settled into their new home, their quality of life can truly start to improve through better health, increased safety and security, wealth building, and increased educational achievement.

As graduation season comes to a close, increased educational achievement becomes an especially noticeable benefit of homeownership.

According to the Studer Community Dashboard, the High School Graduation rate of Escambia County for 2016 was 79.3%. Fortunately for Habitat homeowners, the effect of a stable home on the graduation rate for children of homeowners is 19% higher than for renters, and they are twice as likely to acquire some postsecondary education.<sup>1</sup>

When children are in stable homes and feel safe in their environments, the lack of stress at home can dramatically improve educational achievement at school. Research shows that children of homeowners are significantly more likely to stay in school until the age of 17 than children of renters.<sup>2</sup> Children in families that own a home outperform children in renting families in both math and reading achievement tests, while having fewer behavioral problems, higher educational attainment and greater future earnings.<sup>3</sup>

While the effect of family homeownership on children is quite significant, there are also benefits for adults in the family. Statistics show that a staggering 57% of adults in Habitat households further their education after moving in.<sup>4</sup>

*Continued on page 3...*



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## One Ring to Rule Them All

*... with apologies to J. R. R. Tolkien*

It has now been nearly six years since I was given the opportunity work with the good people at Pensacola Habitat for Humanity. The longer I spend in the work of 'building homes, community and hope' the greater is my appreciation of the impact that affordable home ownership makes for a family, for a neighborhood, and for the sustainability of a community.

I remember my first investigations into the work of Habitat when considering applying for position being vacated by Pensacola Habitat's long serving volunteer ED, Betty Salter (hi Betty). At that time I had been working to mitigate the effects of a very modest income (sometimes none at all) on families in the community by applying the band aid of emergency food service through Manna Food Pantries. Now there's nothing wrong with band aids, real or metaphorical. They serve an important purpose, and are generally credited with keeping things from getting worse. And we all can recognize that there is a world of difference between keeping things from becoming worse and actually making conditions better long term. What I see in the work of Pensacola Habitat is the opportunity to make things better long term.

The opportunity for a family to accomplish what remains for many the American dream of homeownership, and homeownership that is both high quality and affordable moves that family several rungs up the ladder toward greater stability, security and prosperity. Homeownership has so many tangential benefits for families when compared to renting – and we've presented that list many times in these pages. Today I want to focus on just one of those tangential benefits, but perhaps the one which itself provide the greatest number of tangential benefits, and that is education.

Many studies point out that children from families that own their homes will generally do better in school than their counterparts from families that live in rental housing. Particularly when considering families of modest means, rental housing often translates into regular moves in a search for lower rental rates. The stability that comes with affordable homeownership means no more moves, no more changing schools, a place to study... not to mention more funds available for both academic and extracurricular enrichment all leading to greater success in school. And it's well known that greater success in school leads to greater success later in life.

But ultimately behind all of the tangential benefits is homeownership. The 'one ring to rule them all', it turns out, is the keyring that holds your house key. If you, or maybe someone you know is considering homeownership for all of the benefits it can provide, think about checking into the opportunities with Pensacola Habitat for Humanity. We serve families of modest to moderate incomes with affordable homeownership. And at mortgage closing we give the new homeowner their house key, and one ring to rule them all.

Timothy H. Evans, *Executive Director*

*Homeownership and Education continued...*

Aside from the numbers, homeowners can certainly feel the change as they move into their new home and pursue educational goals.

"I've always wanted the best for my family—a safe and affordable home, a decent paying job, and a better education so I can better myself," said Habitat homeowner and recent graduate, Regina Young. Back in 2013 when Regina purchased her home through Habitat she was working to support her family, all while trying to finish school. "Living in my brand new home gave me hope!" Regina exclaimed.

Now graduated as of April of this year, Regina also has a granddaughter on the way and her daughter will be graduating high school in December of this year.

"I was sitting one day looking out of my kitchen window and the birds were chirping, the wind chimes were charming, then reality hit me: I realized where I came from and now where I'm going. I can honestly say that Habitat for Humanity was the very first inspiration on my journey." Regina is currently enrolled in college to be a social worker and plans to continue on to achieve her Master's Degree.



▲ A photo of Regina Young, who used the stability of her safe and affordable home through Habitat to set her educational goals into motion.

### What kind of home does Pensacola Habitat Offer?

Pensacola Habitat for Humanity has been offering a 0% interest mortgage to qualified applicants in Escambia County and Santa Rosa County for 35 years. Our homes are built to last with quality materials, tested energy efficiency, and beautifully updated designs. All families have unique needs, so all homes are built with the future owners in mind. Those buying a home through Pensacola Habitat are able to choose their brand new home's location and amenities based on their budget and needs. Purchasing a home through Habitat provides affordable mortgage payments, low utility bills, and the pride of homeownership. To learn more and apply, please visit [pensacolahabitat.org/home-ownership](http://pensacolahabitat.org/home-ownership)

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1. Harkness, J., and Newman, S. "Effects of Homeownership on Children: The Role of Neighborhood Characteristics and Family Income." FRBNY Economic Policy Review. 2003.
2. Green, R. K., and White, M. J. (1997). "Measuring the Benefits of Homeowning: Effects on Children." Journal of Urban Economics, 41, 441-461. (1997).
3. Haurin, D. R.; Parcel, T. L.; and Haurin, R. J. "The Impact of Home Ownership on Child Outcomes." 2000.
4. "Impact of Homeownership and Affiliate Experiences," University of Southern Indiana.



### Century Ribbon Cutting

Pensacola Habitat for Humanity staff were on hand to celebrate the SHIP Housing Ribbon Cutting in Century, FL. Hosted by Escambia County and PHFH, the ribbon cutting was for the first replacement house completed under the SHIP program. We were honored and excited to take part in the event.





## Volunteer Spotlight: Devon Snell

Devon Snell (pictured left) is no stranger to Pensacola Habitat. Not only was he raised in a Habitat home, he and his wife are currently raising their children in their own Habitat home. He is also involved with Pensacola Habitat in many other ways including President of the Camshire Meadows Homeowner's Association and as a member of our Neighborhood Revitalization Board Committee. He also serves on our Speaker's Bureau. Outside of Habitat, Devon is a deacon and youth teacher at his church, a volunteer basketball coach at Tate High School and mentor in the school district for his employer, Navy Federal.

It doesn't take much time being around Devon to be truly inspired. When asked what motivates him to do the work he does, Devon has one word: Love.

"Seeing people unify for a righteous cause and being serious about wanting to connect with each other inspires me to keep going. I have dedicated my life to use

the things I have learned to add value to others. I believe God gave me a gift to help empower people therefore, I believe I am walking in my purpose."

Devon mentions that everything he does is for his family with hope that he is building a legacy of helping others that will carry on through his children.

Thank you Devon for your hard work and for sharing positive vibes that resonate throughout our community and beyond.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Rana Moore

Northwest Florida has long been a haven for active military personnel and retired veterans. Since the early twentieth century, tens of thousands of America's best and brightest from all branches of service have trained here in what has become known as, "The Cradle of Naval Aviation." Many of those stationed at NAS Pensacola, Eglin AFB, and all posts in between, volunteer to serve, not only our country but, also our local community. Rarely does a week go by that there isn't a military group eager to join Pensacola Habitat's mission of building affordable homes for families in our area.

With all of that in mind, it is no surprise that the national program, The Mission Continues, thrives here. As the name suggests, the program seeks to pair up veterans reintegrating into civilian life with organizations, like Pensacola Habitat, whose mission is to create transformational change in their communities.

For the past six months, Pensacola Habitat has partnered with The Mission Continues fellow, and former Marine Corps Sergeant, Rana Moore (pictured right). Moore came to The Mission Continues with a desire for a career in project management for residential construction and hoped that, in working alongside Habitat's construction team, she would pick up valuable knowledge in the field. Each day, throughout her fellowship, Moore gained an extensive understanding of project management in both the office and on the build site. She remarks, "Learning hands-on what the contractors and subcontractors do has given me a healthy appreciation for what each one does, what kind of variables affect their work, and how to tell when they are doing everything they can, as well as, how to tell when they are cutting corners."



In return, Moore brought military acquired abilities such as leadership, organization, and communication to Habitat's team and to our community. She mentions that serving with the Marines in places in need overseas led her to be "further motivated to help alleviate the same lack of needs being met here on our own soil."

As Moore finishes her service with Pensacola Habitat, she plans to continue toward her goal of becoming a project manager by joining the Dallas area Habitat for Humanity's Habitat Apprentice Training (H.A.T.) program. She leaves us with this inspiring reflection, "I am honored to have served my country, and now, through the collaboration of The Mission Continues and Pensacola Habitat for Humanity, I am honored to have served my local community."

# 2017 Women Build Teams

(as of print date)

Baptist Hospital

Gulf Power

HabiChix

Junior League

Levin Papantonio

Studer Group

The ONE

UWF

Wind Creek

Women of Hillcrest

& a team of committed individuals

## Join Today! Women Build 2017

Calling all pink hard hats and hammers! Pensacola Habitat for Humanity is currently recruiting Women Builders for Women Build 2017.

Women Build is a community event that brings people together to construct a new home for a local family. Teams and individuals join together to raise funds to build a home and then spend a week on the build site, constructing the home.

The four components of Women Build are:

1. **Fundraising** - Each Builder will raise \$500. Teams raise \$5,000. Corporate sponsors donate \$7,500.
2. **Advocacy** - Not only are women builders building homes but are equally importantly building awareness throughout the community about the importance of affordable, secure, and decent homes.
3. **Celebrating** - Pensacola Habitat for Humanity holds several events throughout the Women Build campaign for Builders to get together and celebrate success! Women Builders also earn one-of-a-kind incentives, like pink hard hats and pink hammers.
4. **Building** - Each builder commits to spending one full day on the build site in October.

Women Builders are a representation of strong and caring women who want to make a difference for local families. When Habitat home buyer Kenya, found out that she would be the recipient of the Women Build 2016 home, she felt empowered, "...we, women, are the definition of strength and dignity. To come together and bring awareness about building affordable homes in our community, all while building my home, making my dreams come true, is amazing."

Are you interested in learning more about how you can be involved in Women Build? Please send us an email at [volunteer@pensacolahabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@pensacolahabitat.org) or give us a call at (850) 434-5456.

▼ A photo from the dedication of the 2016 Women Build Home, which was funded, framed, and dried-in all by Women Builders! We can wait to see what the 2017 home will look like!



## Raise Money for Women Build by Going to a Blue Wahoos Game!



Monday, July 3 at 6:30pm

Join the Women Builders for a night at the ballpark! Our Blue Wahoos will be playing the Montgomery Biscuits.

Come on out for fun, fundraising, and fireworks!

Tickets are available for \$10 at our office located at 300 W Leonard Street.

## Brownsville Culture and Arts Camp



▲ Among other activities, campers made a "Lego city" using a large-scale map of the Brownsville area to show how they perceived their community in a creative way.

▼ For six weeks, campers are learning about the history, environment, and cultural diversity in their community.



Pensacola Habitat for Humanity, in collaboration with the Historic Brownsville Community, Inc., is in the midst of hosting a six-week Culture & Arts Camp for youth in Brownsville. The camp is being held at the Pace Temple Fellowship Hall located at 3004 W Gadsden Street. Funding for the camp has been made possible by a Rotary Club of Pensacola Community Grant awarded to Pensacola Habitat in 2016.

Children attending the camp are spending six consecutive Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., learning about one of many topics, including: the unique history of Brownsville, the local environment, and cultural diversity within the context of their community. Throughout this process, they are also learning about themselves and exploring where they come from. The end result of this camp will be the publication of a book, "We Are Brownsville," edited by Robin Reshard, longtime Brownsville resident and creative director at her business, Robert Robino Productions.

On average, about 20 area children in grades four through seven have been in attendance on any given Saturday. In addition, the Culture and Arts Camp has had a number of guest speakers, local educators, community members, and a multitude of dedicated volunteers contribute to the oversight of the curriculum and the facilitation of a supportive learning environment for youth in Brownsville.



▲ Made possible by a grant from the Rotary Club of Pensacola, children that attend the Brownsville Culture and Arts Camp learn about themselves and are able to explore where they call home.



◀ Serene, of Trolley Stop Ice Cream Shoppe, poses with the 1st place trophy that the truck won for the "Sweet" Tasting Competition. Joe's Caribe took the prize for the "Savory" Competition.

▼ With over 6,000 in attendance, the Pensacola Hot Wheels Food Truck Festival was a success. We can't wait until next year!

## Food Truck Festival a Success!

Back by popular demand, Pensacola Habitat for Humanity was happy to host the 2nd Annual Pensacola Hot Wheels Food Truck Festival in Downtown Pensacola! The event was a great success thanks to the variety of the best local food trucks and the more than 6,000 families, food lovers, and adventure seekers attending the event. Proceeds from the festival will be used to further Pensacola Habitat for Humanity's mission of building homes, community and hope to create healthier, sustainable neighborhoods.



## Repurposed Art Show

The Artistically Repurposed Art Show and Auction at Pensacola State College was a smashing success!

Developed as a new and exciting way for people to donate to Pensacola Habitat's mission, the auction on Thursday, May 25th saw more than 30 pieces of art showcased as a part of a collaboration between the Pensacola ReStore and Pensacola State College. Pensacola Habitat for Humanity and Penair Federal Credit Union also helped sponsor and plan the event, showing off the power of recycled products in the creation of beautiful two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces.



## Commit to more sustaining contributions to Pensacola Habitat for Humanity and become a member of the Pensacola Habitat for Humanity Square Foot Club!

Donors pledging recurring or multiple (four or more times per year) donations to Pensacola Habitat for Humanity are welcomed into our Square Foot Club! Square Foot Club members will receive unique benefits like car decals, exclusive ReStore coupons and exclusive invitations to special events.

Pledge your support for helping to create homes, community, and hope.

### Sign me up for the Square Foot Club!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month/quarter (circle one)
- Look for my pledge online at [pensacolahabitat.org](http://pensacolahabitat.org)
- Look for my checks in the mail
- Please bill my credit card as follows:

Visa/Mastercard Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ CSV \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_



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## The HabiChat

Sign-up to receive the electronic version of HabiChat at [pensacolahabitat.org](http://pensacolahabitat.org)

To request removal from the Pensacola Habitat for Humanity mailing list, email [info@pensacolahabitat.org](mailto:info@pensacolahabitat.org) or call 850-434-5456

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The ReStore has huge discounts\* on already affordable treasures all through June!

As a way to show appreciation to ReStore customers, all kinds of items have a greatly reduced the price! New items are on sale each month as the discount tag colors and discounts change! Plus everyday discounts!

**Pensacola Habitat for Humanity ReStore**  
5810 North Palafox Street  
Pensacola, FL 32503  
Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10am - 6pm  
Phone: 850-476-0001

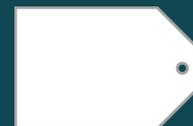
\*Some exclusions and restrictions may apply. Offers cannot be combined. See store for details.



**Green Tags**  
25% Off



**Pink Tags**  
50% Off



**White Tags**  
50% Off



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