

# HabiChat

News from Pensacola Habitat for Humanity

2017

PENSACOLA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

••COMMUNITY SUMMIT••

Building Community:  
Enhancing our  
Sense of "We"

**August 23, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm**  
**Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Resource Center**

Presented in partnership with Race and Reconciliation, UWF Inclusion Spotlight, and a Pensacola Interfaith Initiative

The year has been defined by conflict. Differences in opinions and values have created an underlying tension in the fabric of our society. Instead of actively trying to understand or engage one another in a positive manner, we tend to gravitate towards like-minded individuals in an effort to remain comfortable. We often avoid anyone who might have an opposing viewpoint. How can we be united as a community if we cannot embrace our differences to create lasting, sustainable change? With Pensacola Habitat for Humanity's Community Summit, we are hoping to answer this question.

The Community Summit is an event that seeks to engage our community on a number of different topics. In the past we have covered affordable housing and sustainable community building. This year, we are focused on compassion. We will engage our participants with thoughtful discussion on what it means to be compassionate and to unite as a community, despite ideological differences. The event, which is presented in partnership with Race and Reconciliation, UWF Inclusion Spotlight, and a Pensacola Interfaith Initiative, is free to the public, and all who are interested are encouraged to attend to lend their experience and viewpoints. The hope is to create meaningful action that will foster a more compassionate community.

The third annual Community Summit will take place on August 23rd at the Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Resource Center, 913 South I Street. With input from a Compassionate St. Augustine keynote speaker and an expert panel, this year's summit will provoke discussion across a number of topics of critical concern. Beginning at 1 p.m., the keynote speaker, Caren Goldman, Executive Director and co-founder of Compassionate St. Augustine and author, will begin the discussion of building a community centered on compassion and reconciliation to counter current trends of divisiveness. Caren will be joined for comments by her husband, Rev. Ted Voorhees, vicar of St. Cyprians Episcopal Church in St. Augustine and the partnering founder of Compassionate St. Augustine.

*Continued on page 3...*





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## You're Not Getting any Younger

The first of July came and went, and with it a few passages were recognized. The start of July is the start of a new year at Pensacola Habitat, with a new budget in place and a new plan of work for the next 12 months. In case you've been wondering, we anticipate the completion of the Century disaster recovery work by late summer and have planned 40 units of new construction for our home ownership program.

The first of July also marked the start of my 7th year with Pensacola Habitat for Humanity. In that time there have been many and varied highpoints of accomplishment, both for the organization and in my own professional journey. The organization has rolled over and through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, coming out of the other side of the three year grant program with newly developed capacity to impact our community, which led to the NeighborWorks America chartering and the incorporation of our Community Housing Development Organization (CHoDO). I've enjoyed the individual accomplishment of serving the larger Habitat organization on both a state and national level. But there was one thing that I had wanted to do that kept getting pushed off for 'later'. Given the aging of the participants (me and Jimmy both), I decided that this would be the year I participated in the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Build Project.

The 2017 Carter Build – the 34th Annual – was held in two locations in Canada during the second full week of July. One location, which was planning to build 75 homes on two local sites, was in Edmonton, Alberta. The second location, which was the location where I chose to participate, was scheduled to build 24 houses in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I was assigned to house #256. For part of the week my neighbors just two doors down were President and Mrs. Carter (and a large Secret Service security detail).

I was struck by the 'leveling' of the field based on the work of volunteering for Habitat. Within the group of some 500 volunteers in Winnipeg were business and civic leaders from all across Canada, there was a strong representation of those whose 'day jobs' are to serve the community (the Winnipeg Fire Department was the construction crew for one of the houses), families receiving homes (who ranged from fairly recent immigrants, to first peoples of Canada, to ordinary Winnipeggers hoping for a better future) many regular Habitat volunteers and plenty of retirees (including a retired President). In the devotion which he led Thursday morning Jimmy Carter told a story of a Habitat build several years ago when a driver delivering supplies failed to recognize the former president. The driver asked the President if he was authorized to sign for the delivery, and Jimmy replied, "I'm just a volunteer". He said the identity of being 'just a volunteer' has become among the most meaningful to him.

It was their identity as volunteers that bound the work force of 500 in Winnipeg. It stood out as a point of unity among the broad diversity of backgrounds. As the former President said volunteering is one thing we can all have in common, which is one way Habitat builds community while it is building homes.

Next year's Carter Build Project will be in Indiana. Even at the age of 92 the former President is planning his next opportunity to be a Habitat volunteer. I may try to make it back next year, too. I know I'll be in good company.

Timothy H. Evans, *Executive Director*



▲ The Community Summit's first panelist, Dr. Karen Barber, Director of Federal Programs for the Santa Rosa County School District.



▲ The Community Summit's second panelist, Dr. Keya Wiggins, Licensed Psychologist, Certified Group Psychotherapist, and Instructor and Psychologist at the University of West Florida.



▲ The Community Summit's third panelist, Rabbi Joel Fleekop of Temple Beth-El.

### *Community Summit continued...*

A panel discussion will follow the keynote address. This year's panelists will provide personal and professional insight into identifying origins and influences of divisions in our community, be they political, economic, racial, faith based, or cultural. They will lead discussions about building partnerships through uncomfortable conversations and difficult circumstances, and will talk creatively about finding ways to build experiences of intentional unity and understanding. Here's the panelists:

#### **Dr. Karen Barber, Director of Federal Programs for Santa Rosa School District**

Dr. Karen Barber, Director of Federal Programs for Santa Rosa School District is an educator with over 30 years' experience in the public education field, having started as a special education teacher. She believes in applying a holistic approach when it comes to her work. Dr. Barber will share her experiences working with families of diverse economic backgrounds and provide insights into developing a sensitivity and greater awareness of the differences related to economic status, race, ethnicity, political, cultural and other differences. In addition to her work with the school system, she is a founder of the nonprofit Bridges Out of Poverty, a nonprofit in Santa Rosa County that strives to bring people together to create a more sustainable community while strengthening the workforce and reducing the social costs of poverty.

#### **Dr. Keya Wiggins, Licensed Psychologist and Certified Group Psychotherapist**

Dr. Keya Wiggins is a Licensed Psychologist and Certified Group Psychotherapist. In addition to her local practice, Dr. Wiggins is also an Instructor and Psychologist at the University of West Florida. Dr. Wiggins' work is rooted in understanding and exploring relationships and interpersonal issues. Dr. Wiggins will utilize her relationship expertise to discuss the importance of engaging in uncomfortable or awkward conversations that can help facilitate understanding between seemingly oppositional audiences.

#### **Rabbi Joel Fleekop of Temple Beth-El**

Since July of 2012, Rabbi Joel Fleekop has served as the Rabbi of Temple Beth El, a Jewish synagogue in Pensacola. Prior to his current position, Rabbi Fleekop served as the Assistant and Associate Rabbi at Congregation Shir Hadash in Los Gatos, CA, as the Rabbinic Intern at Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood, CA, and was a Student Rabbi at Congregation Bnai Israel in Butte, MT. He serves on a number of different board of directors, including the Council on Aging of West Florida and the Pensacola Jewish Federation, and is on the Leadership Pensacola Curriculum Committee. His service in the communities he has lived in is a reflection on his passion for service. Rabbi Fleekop is a fervent advocate for social justice and believes community involvement is important for creating a more compassionate populace. With a vast array of experience from his days of community organizing, Rabbi Fleekop will speak on the importance of structuring an inclusive community.

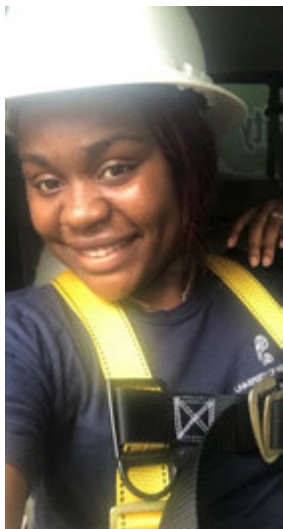
**Sue Straughn, WEAR News Anchor**, will serve as the Summit's moderator.

Contributing to the asset base of this community for over 35 years, Pensacola Habitat takes this current opportunity to lead in advocacy for sustainable community building, together with a great group of panelists. This Community Summit promises to provide methodology for creating significant community action around a number of topics. Space is limited. To register to attend and ensure your spot please visit: [pensacolahabitat.org/invite](http://pensacolahabitat.org/invite).



▲ The Community Summit's Keynote Speaker, Caren Goldman, author and Executive Director and co-founder of Compassionate St. Augustine.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Draya Carter



Rarely do you meet someone more motivated to excel in her personal life while also giving back to her community than Draya Carter (pictured left). A Pensacola native and first generation college student, Draya is currently studying Criminal Justice and Legal Studies at the University of West Florida. Her goal is to complete law school, start her own law firm, and ultimately become a judge in the criminal court system. Draya is not only a full time student, she also works full time as a credit card servicing specialist at Navy Federal Credit Union.

Draya has been building with Habitat this summer in Pensacola and as a part of our tornado disaster recovery in the city of Century. Among her best experiences with Habitat is harnessing up and building on the roof. "I'm super scared of heights and never thought I would be able to say I helped put a roof together!"

When she is not in class, working at Navy Federal, or overcoming her fear of heights, Draya enjoys mentoring children in the Escambia County School District. Furthermore, this fall she intends to continue serving our community by joining a sorority on campus that promotes education and community service. "I am a person with a very big, giving heart. I've also always been motivated to make a difference and leave a foot-print anywhere I can. I enjoy the opportunity to say, 'I helped put a roof over that families head, I gave back to my community, I made a difference.'" She wants everyone who is taking time to read this article to be encouraged to also "make your foot print in this world. If I can do it, so can you!"

## A successful year for AmeriCorps

There are currently 80,000 AmeriCorps members across the nation who have pledged to strengthen communities and get things done. We have been honored to have three of the best here with us at Pensacola Habitat this past year: Jacqueline Cotterell, Sabrina Dennis, and Jenny Johnson.

Their service term ended recently but the lasting effects and sustainability of their hard work will be with our community for years to come. Here's a look back at each member and the service they gave:

Jacqueline describes her time with AmeriCorps as, "unforgettable." After arriving in Pensacola from her native Southern California, Jacqueline rapidly began learning skills that she would use to enhance our community. With the help of Habitat staff members, she became well-educated in graphic design, grant writing, article publication, and affordable housing advocacy. These skills came into play as she held a major role in Women Build, home dedications, writing newsletters, and planning our signature event, the Hot Wheels Food Truck Festival. As she looks to the future, Jacqueline states, "I am so thankful for the experience I had with Habitat and for the incredible support system that has helped shape who I am today."

Sabrina knows Habitat inside and out. She had been volunteering with us for ten years prior to joining us as an AmeriCorps member. This year, as a crucial part of our outreach team, her mission was to create awareness of Habitat in our community and draw new families into our homebuyer program. One of Sabrina's most memorable projects was using her creativity to produce video content for the outreach team's Facebook page. The experience, "gave me a confidence booster. It let me know that no matter what job I take after AmeriCorps, I will be prepared and able to handle any task given to me."

Jenny came to Pensacola from Arizona with a strong desire to get to know those in our community and make a difference in their lives. Reflecting on the past year she states, "AmeriCorps was one of the greatest experience of my life. It helped guide me in a spiritual way because I got to work directly with the people." Her experience has also helped to shape her into a successful leader. Throughout her term Jenny faced many challenges while navigating the various facets of our Neighborhood Revitalization Department. She was able to rise up and take the lead whether she was creating a curriculum for the Brownsville Book Festival, working to build a playground for the Camshire neighborhood, or managing a group of 230 volunteers on a neighborhood clean-up day. The staff and volunteers working with her on each project quickly became confident in trusting her solid leadership.

Pensacola Habitat is grateful for the service of AmeriCorps members here, and throughout the country. They are truly making a difference.

► **2016/17 AmeriCorps members from left to right: Jacqueline Cotterell, Sabrina Dennis, and Jenny Johnson.**



# Women Build Kicks Off!

Pensacola Habitat's Women Build has really been ramping up!

In July Pensacola Habitat for Humanity was the featured organization for "Give Back Monday" at Community Maritime Park, courtesy of the Pensacola Blue Wahoos. Woman Builder Lori Ptacek even represented the organization with a beautiful performance of the National Anthem!

Pensacola Habitat's Women Build Leadership Team worked with Wahoos staff to raise nearly \$2,500 for this year's Women Build campaign.

On August 1st, Women Build officially kicked-off! The kickoff event was held at the Pensacola Yacht Club, who graciously donated their space for the event.

Women Builders attended the kickoff event to pickup their fundraising packets and shirts, meet other Women Builders, and be introduced to this year's Women Build home buyer, Adele McCormick!

If you would like to learn more about Women Build or donate, please visit [womenbuild.pensacolahabitat.org](http://womenbuild.pensacolahabitat.org).

► Women Builders at the kickoff sign a pink stud, which will be built into the Women Build home.



▼ This years Women Build homebuyer, Adele McCormick, and her son Braden.



▲ Women Build Leadership Team member, Siobahn Gallagher, hanging out with Kazoo at Gallery Night to sell Blue Wahoos tickets to support Women Build!

▼ Women Builder, Lori Ptacek, singing the National Anthem before the Women Build "Give Back Monday" game.

▼ ▼ The Women Build Leadership Team worked with the Blue Wahoos to raise nearly \$2,500!




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

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

 Yellow Tags  
25% Off

 Orange Tags  
50% Off

 Green Tags  
50% Off

The ReStore has a beautiful furniture selection, including 6 dining sets. All in excellent condition and priced to move!



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

### Tap in to HabiTap!

Pensacola Habitat for Humanity had an amazing time with everyone at Gulf Coast Brewery for the July Edition of HabiTap!

Pensacola Habitat thanks everyone who came out, Gulf Coast Brewery for hosting and providing beverages, and a special thanks to Lone Star Kitchens 2 Go for the generous donation of their time and food.

We hope to see you at the Fall edition of HabiTap!



### 4 Man Scramble • Shotgun Start

Come and Play!  
Food, Fun, Doorprizes

Friday,  
November 10  
12:00 Noon at



2500 Oak Pointe Dr, Pensacola, FL 32505



EXIT Realty Builds a Home  
for Pensacola Habitat



[golfforhomes.org](http://golfforhomes.org)



▲ Habitat Staff from left to right: Mayra Quiñones, Frank Sherman, Tim Evans, Kelle Freeman, and Amity Rodgers proudly displaying Pensacola Habitat's 6th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

## Pensacola Habitat for Humanity receives 6th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator

Pensacola Habitat's sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the 6th consecutive time that Pensacola Habitat has earned this top distinction.

Since 2002, using objective, data-driven analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These "Accountability & Transparency" metrics, which account for



50 percent of a charity's overall rating, reveal which charities have "best practices" that minimize the chance of unethical activities and whether they freely share basic information about their organization with their donors and other stakeholders.

"Pensacola Habitat for Humanity's coveted 4-star rating puts it in a very select group of high-performing charities," according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars — a rating that demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. Pensacola Habitat for Humanity's supporters should feel much more confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly when it acquires such a high rating."

More-detailed information about the Pensacola Habitat's rating is available at [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org)

## Pensacola Habitat now offers Credit Counseling Workshops

In partnership with BBVA Compass Bank, Pensacola Habitat now offers Credit Health and Rebuilding Workshops!

Home Buyer Program applicants who have been denied due to credit issues have been invited, with hopes that the information presented will help them to resolve some of the challenges they are facing and allow them to reapply for a Habitat home in the future.

Monthly workshops are currently scheduled with BBVA Compass through the end of this year, and are expected to continue through 2018.

***Make a donation today!***

**Please consider a contribution to Pensacola Habitat for Humanity to help a family start a new life in a new home!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Look for my pledge online at [pensacolahabitat.org](http://pensacolahabitat.org)

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Please bill my credit card as follows:

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

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




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**Pensacola Habitat for Humanity is celebrating 35 years  
of building homes, community, and hope. Thank you  
for being a part of the legacy!**



We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or sources of income.