

Impact Partners

Selfless Service Opportunities and Updates | July 2021



Meet our newest Impact Partner!

Habitat for Humanity Helping *people* find their way *home*

Putting God's love into action. That is at the core of Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity's mission to help provide low-income families with safe, affordable housing. It's also why we are so excited to announce that FAC has chosen Habitat as our latest Impact Partner!

Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to providing the dream of homeownership through these initiatives:

- Constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes
- Advocating for fair and just housing policies
- Providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

Habitat for Humanity partners with one of our other Impact Partners, The Charlotte County Homeless Coalition, to offer The Bridge program to its homeowners. This required program helps equip individuals and families to make wise financial decisions and life choices, empowering them to succeed as homeowners and break the cycle of poverty. Habitat also has a Family Support Officer on staff to provide fam-



ilies with emotional support, encouragement, and other resources throughout the process. This position has been invaluable during the pandemic while families have been in chaos and losing jobs.

Since 1987, Charlotte County Habitat has helped over 478 Charlotte County families achieve the dream of homeownership Their homeowner program has a 97% success rate and they reinvest 91 cents of every donated dollar into their programs.

freedom, but not *free*

Habitat loves helping people find the freedom and stability that responsible homeownership can offer. A common myth, however, is that they provide homes for free. Habitat **partners** with individuals and families. Applicants must live or work in Charlotte County for 12 months, commit to 300 hours of sweat equity, provide a \$1,000 escrow deposit, and attend education classes, as well as meet income and employment requirements. Habitat is the mortgage company for homeowners and does not charge interest. Families typically pay between \$500-\$550 per month.

How can you serve at Habitat?

Habitat visited our church home on Father's Day! CEO Mike Mansfield, COO Gabrielle Reineck and Kellie Dunson, Director of Development shared the mission of Habitat with us and the many opportunities to selflessly serve at Habitat. [They include the following:](#)

Construction Volunteers: No experience necessary! This is a great individual or small group serve opportunity! Once completing the volunteer application and process, you can choose the date/location, and build tasks you'd like to perform. [Click HERE to view July's schedule.](#)



You can also serve as one of their four **Resale Stores**, as a **Front Desk Receptionist** in their Punta Gorda office. There are also a variety of opportunities in their **Finance, Family Support, and Volunteer Departments**. [Click HERE for more details and donation needs.](#)

Have questions or wish to apply to serve at Habitat? Email melinda.firstalliance@gmail.com. Or, complete a Serve Card — located in the Worship Center Lobby on the Missions Board — and drop it in the Offering Boxes in the lobby.

Homeless Coalition provides help for hurting children

We've all seen homeless men and women as we've driven the streets of Charlotte County. But there's something you often don't see: homeless children. Yet they are out there. **In 2017-18, 435 Charlotte County students (K-12) lived in shelters, shared housing with others, or were living in motels, cars, campgrounds, etc.** And those are only the ones reported. The impact is sobering: By the age of 12, 83% of homeless children have experienced violence.

The Charlotte County Homeless Coalition provides 30-day Emergency Shelter and other resources to help children and their parents stay together and off the streets as they work to establish stability. They also provide financial assistance to help families get into housing. Over

the past year, their shelter has housed more than 500 people, including 125 who were children under the age of 18. More than 90 percent of families who leave the shelter go on to permanent housing and do not become homeless again.



To learn about the latest serve and donation opportunities at The Homeless Coalition, click [HERE](#).

Sources: Florida's Council on Homelessness, 2019 Annual Report; charlottecountyhfh.org; stopchildhomelessness.org

Ways Pregnancy Solutions is making an impact

The month of June has been incredibly busy for Pregnancy Solutions. They have performed 69 pregnancy tests, 8 new dad intakes, and 60+ ultrasounds. They served 16 clients seriously considering abortion and saw 8 abortion-minded women have a change of heart after an ultrasound.

Their new locations in Murdock and North Port will allow them to offer even more resources to more clients. On the recent Demo Day of their new North Port location, FAC's Jim Cupo and Bill Kopfhamer (pictured left) were among a team of 27 from various churches who came together to help with the renovation. Both new offices are scheduled to open in August.

You'll find Pregnancy Solutions' latest needs and serve opportunities [HERE](#).

