

Habitat looking for nine qualifying families for '08

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I arrived in Citrus County in December of 2005 I was invited to become a Rotarian with the Inverness Rotary Club. Some time in early 2006 I was asked to be a liaison to Habitat for Humanity, an organization I had only heard about. Not knowing much more than that, I went to my first meeting. A meeting at which I was installed as a member of the Board of Directors. OK, I wasn't ready for that, but having been in business and a member of Rotary for 30 plus years and having been on non-profit boards before, I agreed.

Habitat for Humanity is quite a complex organization, and I had a lot to learn about it. Being asked to be on the Site Selection Committee was a big help in acquiring some much needed knowledge. Many hours have been spent seeking property along with the rest of the committee. We have been involved in a mass mailing to all vacant property owners in the county asking if they would consider donating their property to Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County, Inc. This could give them a tax deduction, as we are a 501(c)3 non-profit. With donated property we can hold the cost of construction down. This along with the help of volunteer builders, office angels and a small but very competent staff, we are able to hold the price of a three bedroom home to \$75,000 .

Our homeowners work diligently to earn their homes as indicated in the adjacent article which describes what we look for in potential homeowners. These are average people like you and I, who had something go wrong in their lives, something that took the wind out of their sails. Being able to help families like this gives you a great feeling and makes you try harder.

Two years ago we were building three houses. A year ago we built five houses. This fiscal year we will provide homes for six families.

For the first time in our history we have four houses under construction at one time and permitting is moving along for our next one. In 2008, we will complete eight houses. We have hired a construction manager and additional staff in order to keep up with the demand. This Affiliate has grown a lot this past year, and it looks like it will continue to grow in the future thanks to our Executive Director and his fine staff.

Our "Building Dreams" fundraiser this year was extremely successful, and is planned again for 2009 and annually in the future. We have had sponsor support, which has paid for all or part of a house, and for this Habitat and the families are very grateful.

Now as my year as president ends, I would like to thank my Officers, my Board of Directors and our Executive Director and his staff and all our volunteers for all the help they gave me this past year.

Thank You All
 Bill Metzendorf, President
 Habitat for Humanity Citrus County, Inc.
 2007 -2008

Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County needs your help to identify qualified families.

We here at your local affiliate feel so blessed with the generosity of Citrus County. Since 1993, throughout the county, we have built 36 houses, providing 51 adults and 82 children with safe, affordable, simple, decent housing. We currently have four houses in progress and will complete another four before Christmas of this year.

Due to the wonderful volunteers, churches and organizations who are partnering with us to sponsor houses, we are on target for eight new houses in 2008, and nine more in 2009.

Our program is literally a "hand up" not a hand out. Money and volunteers comprise only two thirds of our program. We actually build with our partnering families, requiring them to provide 500 hours of sweat equity into their own, and well as other family partner's houses. This crit-

ical resource is currently at a deficit for us. Without our partner families in the program, we do not build homes.

With 1 in 10 families in Citrus County living in oppressive, sub-standard housing, frankly, the frustrating concern is that our affiliate has limited resources to identify these families, who might qualify for a Habitat house with us. Last year we asked our community to help in finding families and the result was awesome. We can use your help again. We are reaching out to you and your organizations to help a struggling family to find us. Home ownership will change their lives for generations to come.

■ The family needs to be a Citrus County resident for at least 1 year.

■ They should be in NEED of decent safe shelter.

■ They should have a steady income and be ABLE TO PAY back the no interest mortgage.

■ They must be WILLING TO PARTNER with our affiliate by dedicating 500 sweat equity hours toward the program which includes building their own house.

If you answered YES to ALL of the above questions, then the updated Worksheet Table below will show you the annual income guidelines.

HFHCC partners with the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners for funding by the state of Florida SHIP program for all of our homes.

Interested potential families can receive an application on June 21, 2008 - at 10 a.m. at our New Family orientation at 7 Rivers Presbyterian Church

If you have any questions, PLEASE don't hesitate to call us for answers at 563-2744.

Ask for Pat or Terry.
 For general information about our local organization, PLEASE visit our Web site at:
<http://habitatecc.org>

2008 GUIDELINES

Size of Family	MINIMUM Annual Income	MAXIMUM Annual Income
1	\$9,700	\$19,380
2	\$11,100	\$22,200
3	\$12,450	\$24,960
4	\$13,850	\$27,720
5	\$14,950	\$29,940
6	\$16,050	\$32,160
7	\$17,150	\$34,380
8	\$18,300	\$36,600

Need + Ability to Pay + Willingness to Partner = A New Habitat Home

The selection of Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County's partner families or individuals are done by the Family Selection Committee.

The HFHCC partner must be a resident of Citrus County for at least one year and a legal resident of the United States for at least one year. HFHCC of-

fers Equal Housing Opportunity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, handicap, religion, national origin, marital status, or because some or all of an applicant's income is derived from public assistance.

HFHCC partners with the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners for funding by the State of Florida SHIP program for all homes built in 2008.