



## VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Volunteers build affordable housing and provide affordable home repair and maintenance services in partnership with local faith communities and organizations.

## DONORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE!

Gifts of land, houses, cars, stocks and money purchase building lots, construction materials and contractor services.

[www.florencehabitat.org](http://www.florencehabitat.org)

### Caring and Industrious Florence Habitat Supporters Continue to Help Florence Grow

During 2013 and 2014 Florence Habitat for Humanity made its "Great Leap Forward," by moving into the Florence Center mall at the corner of 21st Street and HWY 101. Its sudden visibility surprised many people. The huge ReStore facility soon developed a steady clientele of donors and customers. Habitat Building Committee volunteers were inspired to complete House #24 and build Houses #25 and #26 from start to finish in ten months! The sale and dedication of these houses signaled the completion of Habitat's Keener Place development – a ten-home neighborhood close to schools and Miller Park. Habitat is pleased to welcome: the Jason and Megan Houlihan family (House #24); the Jaime and Alan Wilby Family (House #25); and, the Michelle and Fredy Galvan-Vanegas family (House #26). They round out the Keener Place community.

The Habitat Home Repair and Neighborhood

Revitalization Program for low-income homeowners was in its infancy a year ago. Now it is a viable operation with six completed Repairs, about thirty new Repair projects in the planning stages and forty or more homes in Coast Village qualifying for Neighborhood Revitalization assistance with their electric service transition program. For the most part repair and revitalization tasks have been funded in advance by donors, foundations, Lane County Regional Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, Senior and Disabled Services Division of the Dept. of Health and Social Services, as well as the homeowners who have received service. The enthusiastic response to the Home Repair program shows us that Habitat is developing the programs that meet community needs.

Now Habitat Building volunteers move on to House #27, which will be built during the Spring and Summer of 2015 in partnership with Hailey Durgan, a Peace Harbor

Hospital employee. Habitat's Site Selection Committee has found and purchased several building sites at the corner of Sixth and Maple Streets and on 37th Street. (We remember our good friend Margaret Thompson, whose legacy to Florence Habitat was her lovely home on 16th Street. This legacy made possible the purchase of the land for future Habitat homes so that more deserving, low-income Florence residents could achieve the dream of home ownership). At this time, Habitat awaits the decision of the City as to which building site will receive a permit to begin building Hailey's home.

The new land purchases have spurred the Family Selection Committee into frantic activity and ten new applications for housing are being reviewed. The Committee hopes to complete the selection process so that two or more new families can begin accruing sweat equity hours in the construction of House #27.

Habitat for Humanity's slogan is, "A hand up; Not a handout." Partner families pay for their home repairs or for their new houses via zero-interest loans with monthly payments tailored to fit each family's income. Charitable contributions, discounted or donated building materials and tools and volunteer labor are what make Habitat homes and repairs affordable. Long and short-term pledges of amounts ranging from Five Dollars a month to Ten Thousand Dollars per year give Habitat stability and make long-range planning and growth possible. Major donations of houses, cars and stocks, or bequests and legacies allow Habitat to make even larger investments in the development of Florence and its surrounding area.

In addition to pledges and donations, what Habitat needs are the volunteers to do the work. If you have a day or two each month think about calling Ken at 541-902-9227 and signing

up for a short-term repair job. If you would rather help build a complete house call Jerry at 541-902-9227. Habitat donors provide the tools and materials and the hard hats! It's not only fun but also a wonderful feeling of accomplishment when you can help someone.

Volunteering, however, isn't limited to construction. Habitat needs volunteers to raise the funds and solicit the donations of materials. Volunteers are needed to join the Committees that perform the other functions of Habitat for Humanity: Site Selection; Family Selection; Family Partnering and Support; Faith/Church Relations; Fund Raising; Blueprint Newsletter publishing; Public Relations; General Office administration; the Board of Directors; to name a few! Please give serious consideration to joining Habitat volunteers in helping to provide simple, decent, safe and affordable homes and home repairs for everyone in the Florence area.

