



Key West & Lower FL Keys  
**Habitat**  
 for Humanity®  
 30320 Overseas Highway,  
 Big Pine Key FL 33043

# HABICHAT

Sept. 2008

*Newsletter of HFH of Key West & Lower Florida Keys*

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#### Our Mission

Habitat for Humanity of Key West and Lower Florida Keys, Inc. is a nonprofit volunteer organization working in interfaith partnership with God's people in need to help create decent affordable housing for the betterment of our community.

#### Our Vision

Habitat for Humanity of Key West and Lower Florida Keys, Inc. strives to eliminate substandard housing and provide decent, low cost, and affordable housing through new home construction, restoration and emergency residential repairs for the economically disadvantaged. Habitat for Humanity is in the process of implementing its plan to eliminate substandard housing in the Lower Keys and Key West. This will be achieved through fundraising activities, land donations, gifts, grants, and adopt-a-house programs with individual, church, business, and corporate sponsors.

## LEAVING A PAPERLESS TRAIL

As many fellow organizations are now doing, Habitat for Humanity of Key West & Lower FL Keys is moving toward "E-Newsletters." This saves paper, the cost of printing and the cost of mailing. SO . . . We need to know that you wish to be kept in the loop.

Please reply via email to:

**[opsdirector@habitatlowerkeys.org](mailto:opsdirector@habitatlowerkeys.org)**

if you wish to receive future newsletters and correspondence by email. If you wish to receive these by regular mail, please drop us a note with your current mailing address and the dates you are at that address:

**30320 Overseas Hwy  
 Big Pine Key, FL 33043**

We want to do a good job staying in touch with all of you, but we want to do so more efficiently. If you can respond by October 15th, we will appreciate it.



## NOW, ON TO THE GOOD STUFF:

As of this writing, the **Perez** home on Big Pine Key is almost completed. The family is finishing their sweat equity and preparing for their closing. The **Kazkinsky's** should close on their Habitat Landing home this month, and the **VanDeGuechjte's** will purchase their Habitat Landing home as soon as arrangements are made for an elevator for their little granddaughter, Lizzie.

The families have worked very hard through a long, hot summer to complete their sweat equity. May they enjoy their new homes for many years to come.

## BAYSIDE LANDING . . . IT REALLY IS GOING TO HAPPEN!

After many, many months going through all the processes it takes to build a community in Monroe County, we finally have all the permits in hand and have proceeded with the necessary paperwork to move the entire project forward. Eileen Quinn, one of our Partner Families, joyfully shows-off the Building Permit.



You should see exciting progress in the next couple of months as you drive through Big Coppitt. We are also planning for 12 homes on US 1 between Sapphire and Emerald Drives on Big Coppitt.

## HABITAT HAS HAD A BUSY SUMMER

Thanks to several Lutheran youth groups that visited our area in July, we were able to begin repair work at **313 Truman Ave.** in Key West. Ms. Clementina Richardson and her son, Andy, were pleased to have the yard cleaned up and the outside of their home freshly painted, as well as patching and paint on the masonry wall surrounding the property. The young people learned the basics of priming, painting, trimming and masonry repair, while learning about life in the Florida Keys.



## RESTORE SUPPORTS MISSION WITH RECORD PROFITS



Thanks to the many people and businesses that have donated valuable items to the **Habitat ReStore**, you will be pleased to know we have had record sales this past summer. The donations keep pouring in, and the customers keep shopping . . . and Habitat has funds to fulfill our mission of building affordable homes for our neighbors. The **ReStore** and **CoConut Closet** upstairs provide a WIN~WIN~WIN for everyone in the Lower Keys: our used items stay out of the landfill, people who can still use those items can afford to purchase them, and Habitat gains more and more support. Keep the **ReStore** in your thoughts and prayers and remind others that they can call 305-872-2883 to arrange to have their items picked-up. Thank you, donors & shoppers!

## **BOBALU'S CANCEL HURRICANE SEASON PARTY MAY HAVE DONE ITS JOB?**

The buzz of tree trimmers was heard throughout Key West after the Fay scare on August 18th, but with very little damage from this rather insignificant storm and a mere shower from Gustav, we have to wonder if Doug Meeker's idea of "Canceling Hurricane Season" might actually be working. Bobalu's put on a huge fish-fry and party on May 31 during which local business and community leaders shot calendar pages June -November out of a cannon to ensure the cancellation of the 2008 hurricane season. Everyone had a great time, thanks to the hospitality of the folks at ***Bobalu's!***

## **TAX CREDIT SPONSORS STEP UP TO THE PLATE**

Community Contribution Tax Credit Sponsors helped Habitat tremendously this summer as we acquired six condo units at 1830 Fogarty Ave. in Key West. The price on these homes was right for us to purchase them and make them permanently affordable units for future residents.

CCTCP Sponsors included ***Historic Tours, First State Bank*** and ***Spottswood Management, Inc.***, with ***Manley DeBoer*** sponsoring the Perez' new home on Big Pine Key. The tax credit program is simple and easy and it provides much-needed funding for Habitat's affordable housing initiative. Plus, it keeps your money working for you right here at home. For complete information on how your business can participate, contact Executive Director, Bob Calhoun at 305-872-4456, ext. 109.

## **ONWARD & UPWARD**

Habitat's Family Selection Committee is gearing-up for meetings that will yield potential new partner families. There are opportunities for three families at Bayside Landing, plus twelve at the second Big Coppitt site. The meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday Sept. 25 from 6 - 8 pm at Peace Covenant Church on Flagler Ave. in KW,  
Saturday Sept 27 from 10 am - noon at Peace Covenant in Key West  
Tuesday, Sept 30 from 6 - 8 pm at the Habitat office at MM 30.5 in Big Pine Key,

Please share this information with friends, business associates, church members . . . anyone who may know of families interested in learning more about applying for affordable housing. Attending one of these orientation meetings is the only way to obtain an application.



The one drawback to our new “E-Newsletter” program is that we have no way of sending the donation reminder envelopes that used to be enclosed in the printed newsletters.

So... PLEASE, don't forget Habitat for Humanity of Key West & Lower Florida Keys when it comes to your end of year giving. With your help, we at Habitat will continue to work toward fulfilling our mission and supporting our local workforce by providing affordable housing.

Your financial support is always appreciated.

## STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING EVENTS...

**Brunch with Santa** at **Hurricane Hole Marina** on Saturday, December 6 from 9 am - 2 pm. Games, pictures, great food and tons of fun for all ages. Watch your email for complete information!

The **10th Annual Terry Cassidy Pickin' Party** at the Big Pine Habitat offices at MM 30.5. This was a huge event last year and promises to be even bigger this Winter. **February 1** is the day, **noon - 6 pm** is the time . . . We'll be out collecting Silent Auction items from our local business supporters, so expect to hear from our volunteers. This is our major fund raising event of the year, so we need your help. Together, we can make this a Super Event!

