



Building Homes, Community & Hope

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

Habitat for Humanity believes that everyone, everywhere, should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. Since 1976, the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization has made that dream come true for over 6.8 million people worldwide. That number includes the adults and children who reside in the 18,000 homes built, rehabbed or repaired by Habitat volunteers throughout Florida. Habitat South Sarasota's goal is to build or renovate safe, decent, affordable, energy-efficient homes for those in need in south Sarasota County. Habitat South Sarasota has completed over 130 energy-efficient residences built or rehabbed in Laurel, Nokomis, North Port, Osprey, Venice and Englewood since 1992.

Through Habitat's successful program, prospective homeowners are selected through an extensive application process. Those who are approved actively participate, contributing time and 'sweat equity' toward their home's construction. "We have seen firsthand how access to an affordable mortgage or loan can help homeowners save more, focus more intently on education and other sustainable goals, and be more financially secure," says Executive Director Shannon Hoyt. "Through shelter, we empower families."

Building costs for Habitat homes are paid for, in part, through the ReStore, the non-profit's home improvement outlet and donation center. There, donated new or gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, construction materials and more



are sold to the public at a fraction of the retail price. Daily arrivals of unique new and gently used items ensure that every visit to the Habitat ReStore is a shopping adventure.

"Shop, volunteer and donate!" is the mantra heard by the staff of the ReStore. If you choose to shop, you'll find the massive showroom tastefully displays everything from household essentials and colorful accessories, to clothing and sporting equipment. "Our ReStore on Ogden Road allows the community to get amazing deals on beautiful pieces of furniture, household items, clothes, tools, and more," states Shannon. "But far more than that, it allows you to know that your purchases are helping families build strength, stability, and self-reliance in our community and around the world."

If you want to volunteer, ReStore makes it easy to help since assignments accommodate individual interests and schedules. Community Outreach Coordinator Emily Shaw shares, "ReStore volunteers are always welcome, whether it's once a week or once a month. Regarding donations, we accept a variety of items (furniture, clothing, household accessories, tools, etc.) that are in good, usable condition, plus all donations are tax-deductible." Additionally, the ReStore provides free pickup of donations with a scheduled appointment.



The ReStore staff

ReStore Director Denise Royer explains, "Our proceeds build homes, community, and hope. The families Habitat helps gain more than just safety, security, and a roof over their heads. They acquire a sense of belonging, pride and self-esteem, plus improved job prospects and educational opportunities. This, in turn, creates a positive ripple effect throughout the community, in that home values increase and neighborhood connections are strengthened."

"When you help others, it changes your life," she says. "There is a spiritual reward in that the more you give, the more you receive. It brings a feeling of doing a good deed, helps you feel connected

both personally and to your community, and enhances your sense of happiness and well-being. Plus, all the funds raised stay right here in South Sarasota County, so everyone benefits."

Whether you shop, volunteer, or donate, ReStore makes it easy to help those who are in need find their way home.

For more information about this advertorial, log on to HabitatSouthSarasota.org or call 941.493.0529. Located at 1400 Ogden Road, the ReStore is open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Mon.–Sat.



Community Outreach Coordinator Emily Shaw presents ReStore Director Denise Royer with a plaque

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