

Women Build 2026

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Palm Beach County rallied more than 300 participants for its highly anticipated *Women Build*, held in West Palm Beach. The inspiring two-day event united committed volunteers from across South Florida to support the construction of three new affordable homes, complete an exterior home painting project at a neighboring residence, and build fencing panels, all while raising critical funds and advancing Habitat's mission during its 40th anniversary year.

Led by Co-Chairs **Rana Levy** and **Christy Maasbach**, alongside Honorary Co-Chairs **Julie Peyton** and **Mary Allen Saunders**, and a dedicated group of committee members, *Women Build 2026* launched last fall with an ambitious goal of raising \$750,000. With the support of builders and sponsors, the campaign raised over \$450,000. Through strong partnerships with the local government and grant funders, Habitat secured an additional \$720,000, bringing *Women Build's* impact to a record-breaking total of more than \$1,170,000.

Women Build showcased the powerful role women play in building stronger communities. The signature fundraiser delivered an unforgettable hands-on experience rooted in collaboration and impact. Builders, sponsors, and community partners worked side-by-side with future Habitat homeowners, **Carla, Nicole, and Victorious**. Through Habitat's *Homeownership Program*, those who partner with the organization contribute at least 300 hours of "sweat equity" and complete financial literacy and homeownership education courses. Each family then purchases their home through an affordable, interest-free mortgage, creating a pathway to long-term stability and success.

The experience extended beyond just construction, with thoughtfully curated program and activations like a colorful House of Perna pop-up with designer **Amanda Perna**, a Glitter and Glow Bar by **Bella Reina Spa**, refreshing gelato from **Limone Palm Beach**, B-12 shots by **DRIPBAR**, and a **Habitat ReStore** pop-up.

Women Build 2026 was made possible through key collaborations with the **City of West Palm Beach** and the **Urban League of Palm Beach County**, who donated the land these homes are being built on. Local organizations also played an active role in the build, including the **City of West Palm Beach Housing and Community Development Department**, **West Palm Beach Fire and Police Departments**, **Palm Beach County Housing and Economic Development Department**, and students from the **Weitz Construction Academy at Seminole Ridge High School**.

"*Women Build* is a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when a community comes together," said **Jennifer Thomason**, President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Palm Beach County. "These homes represent more than



FIRST ROW: Rana Levy and Christy Maasbach; Women Builders, Habitat Partner Families, and Habitat Staff morning shift; **SECOND ROW:** Julie Peyton; Commissioner Mimi May (Lake Worth Beach District 3), Lisa Stubley, Christy Maasbach (Vice Mayor, Lake Clarke Shores) and Charlotte Leonard (Councilwoman, City of West Lake and Habitat GPBC Board Chair); **THIRD ROW:** Future Habitat Homeowners - Nicole Rose, Erin Kendee, Natalia Almeida, Rokeesha Deveaux, Celestina Felder, Victorious Hawthorne-Charles, Carla Hamilton, Jose Laboy Martinez and Hillari Snellgrove. PHOTOS: MASTERWING CREATIVE AGENCY

just walls and roofs. They are the foundation for brighter futures for local families."

Women Build 2026 Sponsors included: **Vertical Bridge** (Foundation Builder Sponsor); **Carrier and James Hardie Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational** (Rosie the ReStore Truck Sponsors); **BETR Project** (Tote Bag Sponsor); **Gator Gypsum and RCC Associates** (Hard Hat Sponsor); **Akel Homes, Botanica Landscaping, Florida Crystals, Florida Peninsula Insurance Company, The Fortin Family Foundation, LaFrance Project, and Moraca Builders** (Home Builder Sponsors); **Laura Ashley Catering and Events** (Catering Sponsor); **Wellington Florist** (Annual Floral Sponsor); **97.9 WRMF** (Exclusive Radio Sponsor); **XCEL Padel** (Kick-off Party Sponsor); **WPBF 25** (Exclusive Broadcast Station Partner); **Boca Raton Airport Authority and Chung Spine** (Refreshment Sponsors); **CDRX Pharmacy** (R & R Tent Sponsor); **The**

Colony Hotel, First Horizon Bank, Gunster, JMorton Planning Landscape Architecture, and Ric L. Bradshaw, Palm Beach County Sheriff (Community Builder Sponsors); **SFBW** (Exclusive Magazine Sponsor); **Dr. Ann Polya, Humana, Leeds Custom Design, Seabreeze Building, Seacoast Bank, Taylor Building, and Villages of Hope** (Hope Builder Sponsors); **ClearTouch** (TV Screen Sponsor); **WLRN** (Media Partner); **Magen Protective Services** (Annual Security Sponsor); **Starbucks Coffee** (Annual Coffee Sponsor); **The City of West Palm Beach** (Land Donors and Partners); and **The Breakers Palm Beach, Carrier, and Publix Super Markets Charities** (Home Sponsors).

For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Greater Palm Beach County email **Julia Murphy**, Chief Advancement Officer at julia.murphy@habitatgreaterpbc.org or visit www.habitatgreaterpbc.org.