About us

Driven by a vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County builds affordable housing, revitalizes neighborhoods and strengthens communities.

Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat Orlando & Osceola to build or improve a place they call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower.

Habitat Orlando & Osceola is one of Habitat for Humanity International’s affiliates working in nearly 1,400 communities throughout the United States and in more than 70 counties.

To learn more, visit HabitatOrlandoOsceola.org, follow us on Twitter @HabitatOrlOsc, Instagram @HabitatOrlandoOsceola, and LinkedIn, and like us on Facebook.
Timeline

1986: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando is founded by Walter Pharr and a group of dedicated volunteers.

1996: We break ground on Heritage Gardens, building homes in Parramore.

2002: The first Orlando ReStore is opened.

2003: Our 100th home is built, one of ten constructed in the Washington Shores area.

2008: The Habitat UCF Campus Chapter is established. We also break ground on Stag Horn Villas, a 58-home community in Pine Hills.

2010: We partner with Orange County for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, in which foreclosed properties are rehabbed and sold to low-income families. We also hosted our first annual Women Build.

2012: Our 200th home is built.

2013: Stag Horn Villas is completed.

2014: We break ground on Butler’s Preserve, which is named after Mable Butler, a longtime affordable housing advocate and former District 6 Orange County Commissioner. This community is our largest neighborhood to date with 59 homes.

2015: Our 250th home is completed.

2016: We celebrate 30 years of service!

2018: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando becomes Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County as we expand our service area to encompass Osceola County.

2019: We break ground on our fourth planned community: Silver Pines Pointe. This community in Orlando’s Pine Hills area will consist of 58 homes.
Our CEO

Catherine Steck McManus serves as the President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County - the largest Habitat affiliate in Florida and one of the largest affiliates in the United States.*

Habitat Orlando & Osceola partners with people in the community to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. The program assists Habitat homeowners to achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and for their families.

In 2018, Catherine led the expansion of Habitat Greater Orlando’s geographic service area to form Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County to meet the growing affordable housing need in Central Florida. In 2018, Habitat Orlando & Osceola provided 113 families the ability to build strength, stability and independence through new homeownership, neighborhood revitalization and community development.

Under Catherine’s leadership, Habitat Orlando & Osceola launched a Builders Blitz to begin construction on one of its new communities, Arbor Bend in South Apopka. In February 2019, four homes were built in five days by four builders who donated materials, labor and services. Arbor Bend is Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s third planned community and upon completion later this year, 34 Central Floridians will have a home of their own.

McManus has nearly 20 years of nonprofit experience, having held roles in administration, development, operations and communications. Her community and professional service were recognized in June 2018 by Orlando Magazine as Catherine was named one of their Women of the Year and in March 2019 by i4 Business magazine where she was named one of Central Florida’s Inspired Women Leaders for her Spirit of Engagement.

Please contact Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s Vice President of Marketing and Communications Betsy Culpepper to schedule an interview with Catherine McManus. Betsy can be reached via her office (407) 567-0009, cell phone (407) 222-1065, or email BCulpepper@HabitatOrlandoOsceola.org.

*based on Habitat for Humanity International’s (HFHI) annual production report, comparing our affiliate to all other very large markets (VLM) based on the size of our geographic service area (GSA). The VLM ranking is based on the NRRR total, which is the total number of New, Rehabbed, Repaired and Recycled homes.
Our Homeowners

Meet our typical homeowner, “ALICE”

Asset limited, Income Constrained, Employed

Alice is the hourly employee at your local theme park; the teacher who lovingly educates your children; the guest service representative at your local hospital; the cashier at your local neighborhood grocery store.

They have entry level positions and are hardworking people.

Our typical homeowner is 44 years old, Female, employed at one of the area’s largest employers including Walt Disney World, Advent Health, Orlando Health or Orange County Public Schools. Many are disabled.

It takes them approximately 20 months from application acceptance, to complete their education classes, contribute their sweat equity, and close on their loan. The average monthly salary at closing for our homeowners is $2,224.

Though gainfully employed, they are one incident away from financial ruin; making impossible choices on a daily basis – what can my family forgo to afford our home?
Facts

Since 1986, Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County has built, rehabbed and repaired more than 700 homes, serving thousands of men, women and children in Central Florida.

Under the expertise and supervision of our trained construction team, over 5,000 volunteers annually help Habitat Orlando & Osceola build and repair homes.

Habitat Orlando & Osceola consistently earns Charity Navigator’s four-star rating and GuideStar’s Gold Seal.

The Path to Homeownership

 Applicants must show a housing need, be willing to volunteer through sweat equity, attend homeownership classes and have the necessary income and credit to pay the monthly mortgage.

All homeowners must also attend Habitat U - 17 homebuyer education classes that include financial literacy, home maintenance, safety issues, and credit counseling if needed.

Each homeowner must complete 200-400 sweat equity volunteer hours which serves as the down payment for their home.

Habitat Orlando & Osceola sells each home at fair market value. Habitat homeowners put in their money toward closing costs, pay a mortgage, and maintain all the responsibilities that come with owning a home including paying insurance and taxes.

Our housing program is underwritten by grants, donations and a generation of homeowners paying their mortgages. This allows us to provide an affordable mortgage, ensuring mortgage and escrow payments do not exceed 30% of a homeowner’s monthly income.

The Need for Affordable Housing in Central Florida

The Greater Orlando area is worst in the nation when it comes to finding an affordable place to live, especially for low-income households, according to the Affordable Housing Gap Analysis by the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

One in 6 U.S. families pay half or more of their income on housing.

43% of households in Orlando and 60% in Osceola County are either in poverty or qualify as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

Nearly 218,000 people live in poverty in Orange County. Nearly 309,000 live in poverty in Osceola County.

Almost 72,000 children in Orange County and 77,000 in Osceola County, under the age of 18, live in poverty.
2018: Year In Review

**BY THE NUMBERS**

$520 is the average monthly mortgage payment of a Habitat Orlando & Osceola homeowner.

More than $1.5 million was donated by 140 Cornerstone Guild members, annually contributing $1,000 or more.

Built and sold 29 homes, empowering 29 families through shelter

103 engaged residents attended Community Conversations and over 300 residents attended National Night Out festivities in the Greater Malibu Groves neighborhood

91 existing homes provided with repairs through our Neighborhood Revitalization program

Tied for 5th

Habitat Orlando & Osceola is one of Habitat for Humanity International’s Top 5 affiliates in very large markets.**

22,866 volunteer hours contributed

6,437 hours of sweat equity contributed by future Habitat homeowners

0 homes given away for free

**Based on the size of our geographic service area and the NRRR total (number of new, rehab, repair and recycle homes.)

*Fiscal Year 2017-2018
Our Executive Team

Gregory Allen-Anderson  
Chief Program Officer

Jacqueline Boykin  
VP of Development

Jenay Byrd  
VP of Human Resources

Jennifer Gallagher  
Chief of Staff

Leigh Newton  
VP of Construction and Real Estate

Delilah Rosario  
VP of Finance

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For photos, B-roll, and more collateral, please visit our Dropbox.
Our communities

Arbor Bend
Arbor Bend, in South Apopka, is Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s third community which will feature 34 homes upon its completion in 2019. The project is a unique public/private partnership among Habitat Orlando & Osceola, Orange County government, and Homes in Partnership, Inc.

Butler’s Preserve
Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s second community in Orlando, Butler’s Preserve, is named after Mable Butler, a stalwart affordable housing advocate and former District 6 Orange County Commissioner. The neighborhood features 59 single-family homes that are Florida Green Building Coalition Certified and Water Star® rated.

Silver Pines Pointe
Silver Pines Pointe is Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s fourth planned community in the Pine Hills area of Orlando. The 58-home community will feature three and four-bedroom homes. It will be completed in Spring 2022.

Stag Horn Villas
Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s first owner-managed condominium association community, Stag Horn Villas, features 58 single-family condominium homes. Each townhome has a multitude of energy-efficient features and is Energy Star® rated. The model home received Gold designation from the Florida Green Builder’s Coalition. Many of the “green” features were made possible by partnerships with OUC – The Reliable One and Siemens.
Our Events

While scheduled Habitat builds take place regularly, we also host three annual special events. These gatherings raise awareness, engage volunteers, and fundraise.

Attendees get a chance not only to learn more about Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s mission, but also to meet new people, work alongside future Habitat homeowners, learn different skills, and more.

**Builders Blitz**
Feb. 3-8, 2020, in Silver Pines Pointe
Local builders, along with their vendors and subcontractors, donate the cost of a home to Habitat Orlando & Osceola. During this event, those safe, affordable homes are built in five days for local families. Watch alongside these families as concrete slabs turn into homes in under a week.

**Women Build**
2020 - exact date & location TBA
Each spring, our Women Build fundraising event gathers hundreds of women to build affordable housing and show Orlando and Osceola that our community can turn dollars into homes.

**Holiday Build**
Dec. 6 & 7, 2019, in Silver Pines Pointe
Volunteers don their festive holiday shirts and hats for a fun build day full of games and prizes. This fundraising event is geared toward coworkers and friends looking to make a difference in the community during the holidays.