



impact report *FY 24-25*

rich family  
*Tavares, FL*

**Habitat** right in your  
neighborhood



YCA student

Bushnell, FL

# our core values

## Trustworthy

We are committed to honesty and transparency. We aim to what's right, even when no one is looking.

## Intentional

Actions we take are purposeful. We are fueled to be excellent by the charge of our mission.

## United

When we work together, we can create something greater than ourselves.

## Just

We steward our resources to eliminate barriers and create access and opportunity for all.

## Driven

We accept a challenge, honor resiliency, and are driven to continuously improve ourselves and our community.

batson family  
Bushnell, FL



# table of contents

impact report  
2024-2025

<b>a letter from our CEO</b>	01
<b>right in your neighborhood- a letter from our board chair</b>	02
<b>our programs</b>	03
<b>meet your neighbor</b>	04
<b>our volunteers</b>	05
<b>when repair means staying: preservation &amp; repair</b>	06
<b>audited finances</b>	07-08
<b>advocacy: habitat on the hill</b>	09
<b>local impact for our global village: chimaltenango, guatemala</b>	10
<b>special events</b>	11
<b>ways to give</b>	12

## What an exciting year!

I am continually inspired by the **strength of our community** and the creativity, resilience, and dedication of individuals across Habitat's network. Local engagement is at the **heart of our success**, and this year our donors, volunteers, homeowners, students, and elected officials made the intentional choice to **give where they live**.

As you reflect on the stories and milestones in this impact report, know that each one is made possible **because of you**. Your commitment helped **16 families** take their first steps toward the **stability and dignity** of homeownership, ensured **38 families** could remain safely in the homes they love through **critical repairs**, and opened doors for **122 students** to gain hands-on experience and discover new **career pathways** through our Youth Construction Academy.

As we enter the third year of our strategic plan, we remain **focused on our shared vision** of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Together, we will continue pursuing our goals and **strengthening the fellowship we share** with our partners and neighbors. Thank you for believing in this work and for being the **change that makes it possible!**



Danielle Stroud, CEO





# What does “home” mean to you?

When I think about home, I think about more than a building. I think about my family gathering to celebrate life’s most special occasions. I think about **my neighbors**, always there to provide a smile, a cup of sugar, or an ear to listen. My community, who support me, sustain me, and whom I strive **to give back** to in return.

Home isn’t home without **community** to fill it. We need our neighbors, and right now, we know that many of our neighbors need us. There are families **in our own backyard** who are struggling to find a safe, stable, secure place to call home.

That’s why I’m so excited to share with you the fantastic work that is being done by everyone here at Habitat for Humanity of Lake-Sumter. From walking alongside families on their **journey to homeownership** and providing **critical home repairs** that allow families to stay in their hometown communities, to providing **construction education** to 5 local partner high schools and engaging a significant force of volunteers to help along the way – Habitat Lake-Sumter is working exclusively in Lake and Sumter Counties to meet these families where they are and bring them the resources they need to **thrive**.

We’ve been hard at work across Lake and Sumter County – **right in your neighborhood**. We can’t wait to show you all we’ve accomplished, and all that it means to be a part of our local Habitat Lake-Sumter community.

*Ze'Shieca Carter*  
Ze'Shieca Carter, Board Chair

**board chair**

*Ze'Shieca Carter*





# local impact

at a glance

Here's a snapshot of how your generosity has impacted families in Lake & Sumter counties in 2025.

- 16** new homes built
- 38** preservation and repair projects completed
- 122** students enrolled in our Youth Construction Academy

# meet your neighbor

## the Marquez family

**Melanie Marquez** learned about Habitat through a family member who lost their home in Hurricane Maria back in 2017. That experience stuck with her. Years later, now living in Mount Dora and working hard as a medical assistant, she started looking for her own way to **build something stable**—and remembered Habitat.

Melanie applied not once, but three times before being selected. It wasn't easy, but she never gave up. That **determination and drive** are just part of who she is. And when she finally got the call, she knew it was the beginning of something big.

Through this program, Melanie was finally given the opportunity to create a place she could truly call her own—a **forever home** for herself and her two children, Adyan and Yeliannys.



*“Having your own home means you can go home, make it cozy, and be together as a family. We can create good memories here.” ~  
Melanie Marquez*



# community in action

947

total **volunteers**

31,558

total **volunteer  
hours**



Volunteer  
Bushnell, FL



meet the  
**Montgomery**  
family

# when repair means staying

*Preservation and Repair*

**Coretta and James Montgomery**, longtime residents of Coleman, Florida, have lived in their home for more than **52 years**, and have been married for over three decades. After learning about Habitat Lake-Sumter through a local community representative, they reached out for help addressing the **growing repair needs** in their home.

Through Habitat Lake-Sumter's Preservation and Repair program, critical updates valued at more than **\$35,000** provided new windows, a repaired front porch, a new air conditioning system, new flooring, a leveled foundation, and other essential improvements.

These **local investments** helped ensure the Montgomerys can continue living safely and comfortably in the community they have called **home for more than half a century.**



Before



After

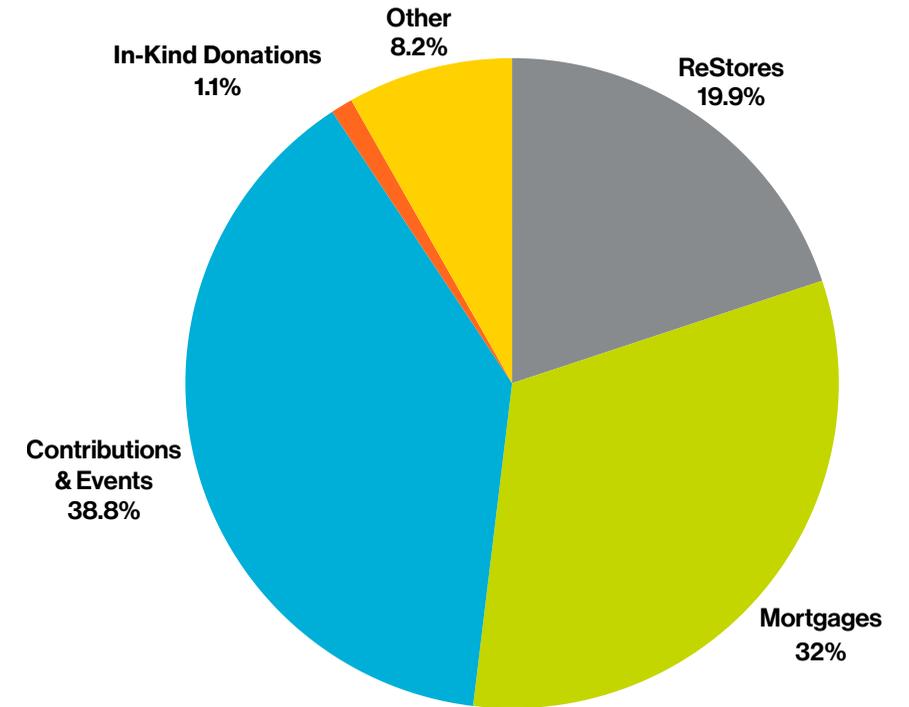
Groveland, FL

“ *I had been waiting for this moment.* ”



# audited financials

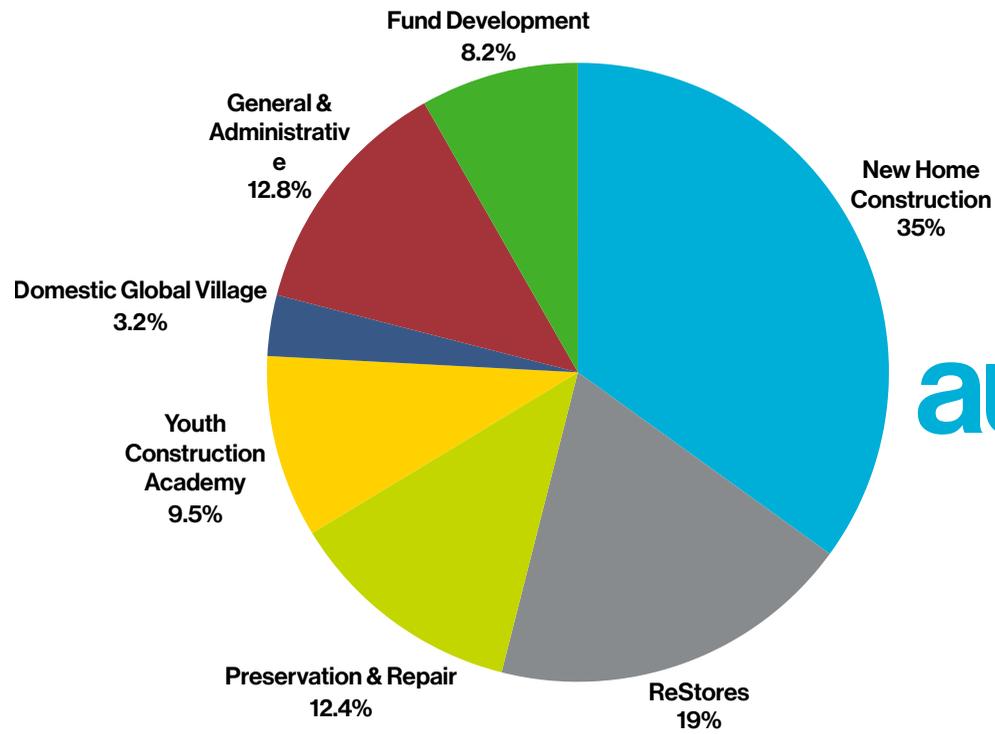
## revenue



Contribution & Events	\$2,047,077
Mortgages	\$1,688,118
ReStores	\$1,049,282
In-Kind Donations	\$57,254
Other	\$431,900

---

**Total Revenue     \$5,273,631**



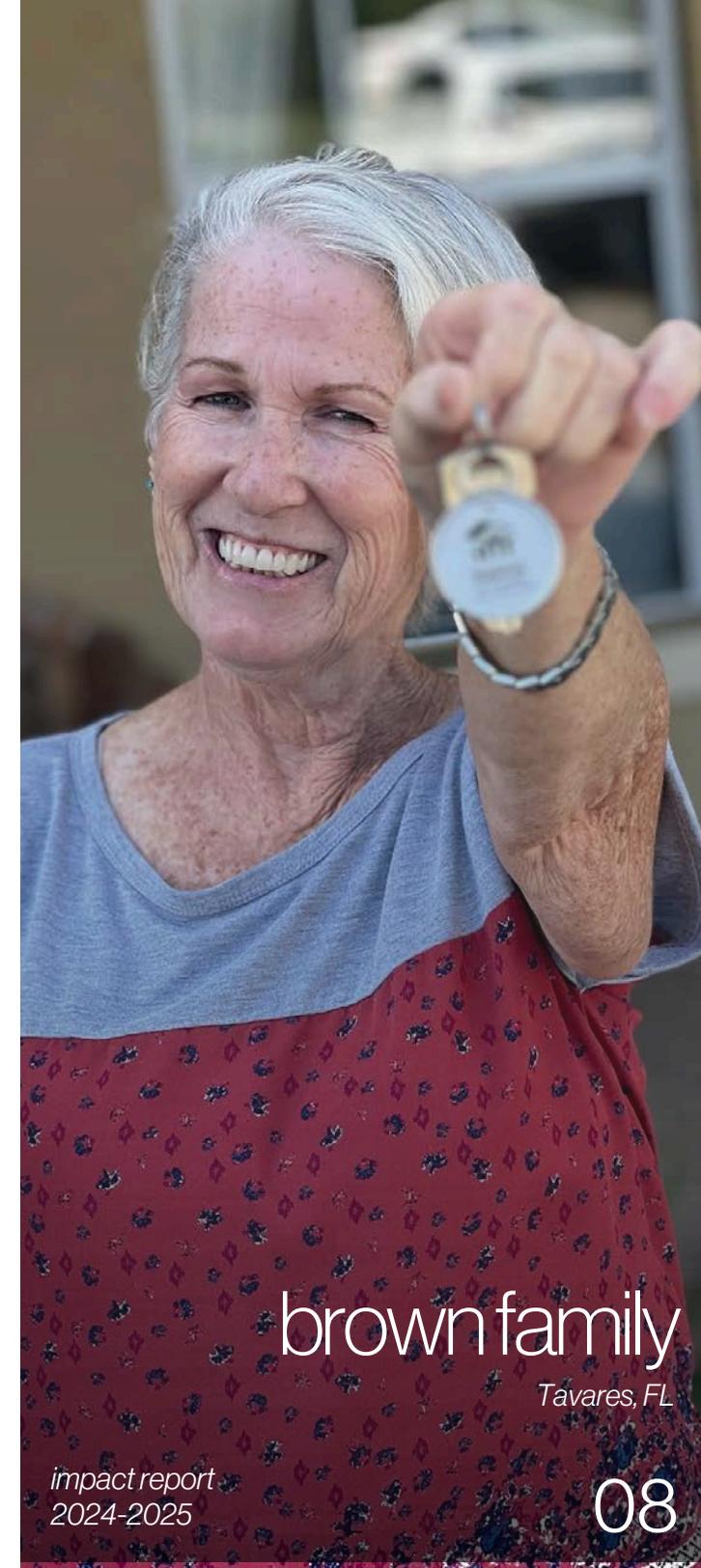
# audited financials

## functional expenses

New Home Construction	\$1,692,126
ReStores	\$917,701
Preservation & Repair	\$597,784
Youth Construction Academy	\$461,288
Domestic Global Village	\$153,902
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,822,801</b>

General & Administrative	\$617,121
Fund Development	\$397,735
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,014,856</b>

**Total Functional Expenses: \$4,837,657**



brown family

Tavares, FL



# advocacy

## Habitat on the Hill

This past year, we took our commitment to affordable homeownership beyond local builds by **raising our voice** at the state and national level.

Members from the Habitat Lake-Sumter Community joined more than 400 Habitat advocates in Washington, D.C. for **Habitat on the Hill**, where they met with legislators and national partners to **champion housing policies** that matter for families right here in Lake and Sumter counties.

These conversations were grounded in the real impact our work has locally, from **increasing access to affordable housing** opportunities to strengthening **long-term stability for homeowners**.

They reflect our belief that achieving lasting change requires not only building homes but also **shaping the systems** that make homeownership possible, and represent just **one of the many ways we advocate for affordable housing in our community**.

**local  
voices.**  
*national influence.*

*Washington, D.C.*

# local impact

## for our global village

**From June 15 - 21,** a team from Habitat for Humanity Lake-Sumter traveled to **Chimaltenango, Guatemala,** to build alongside Habitat for Humanity Guatemala. Partnering with the local affiliate, the team helped complete six concrete floors and supported eight families in creating **safer, healthier** living conditions.

Although the work took place outside Lake and Sumter counties, the experience strengthened the team's understanding of how Habitat's mission is carried out locally in **communities around the world.** Team members worked directly with families, local staff, and community advocates, gaining insight into **how housing solutions are shaped by local needs, culture, and resources.**

"In many ways, Habitat Guatemala is very similar to Habitat Lake-Sumter," shared Lacie Himes, former Development Director. "They build new homes and also provide **healthy housing solutions** for families who may not be eligible for new construction, just like our Homeownership and Preservation & Repair programs. While the solutions may look different, **the mission remains the same.**"

This experience reinforced that while Habitat Lake-Sumter's work is rooted locally, **global partnerships** help inform and strengthen the work carried out right here at home.



**habitat crew**

Chimaltenango, Guatemala



Tavares, FL

**Women BUILD**

presented by  
**AGEWAVE**  
SOLUTIONS, INC.  
ARCHITECTS - ENGINEERS

**34 women**  
over \$84,490 raised

**Jingle Build-Off**

**22 playhouses**  
over \$53,571 raised



Wildwood, FL

impact report  
2024-2025

# give where you live

## Give

Every dollar raised **makes a difference**. Go to **HabitatLS.org** to give today.

## Volunteer

**Lend your time** and talents on build sites, in the ReStore or at events. Contact Carlos at **352-483-0434** to schedule your volunteer time.

## Donate

Donate **new or gently used items** to the ReStore to **support affordable housing** and keep usable goods in our local community. Call **352-589-3005** to schedule your pickup.

## Advocate

Use your voice to **support policies** and partnerships that expand access to safe, affordable housing in our community. Learn more at **HabitatLS.org/advocate**.

hoemann family

Oxford, FL