



March, 2021

## Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco County



**Women Build**  
Coming together to build stronger, safer communities.

[www.habitatpasco.org](http://www.habitatpasco.org)



## International Women Build Week March 8 - 15, 2021

Dade City, FL March 8, 2021 – Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco

County and Lowe's are partnering to raise awareness of the global need for safe and affordable housing for women during [International Women Build Week \(March 8-15\)](#). On International Women's Day, Habitat and Lowe's will kick off more than 300 Women Build projects supporting women-led households across the United States, Canada, and India to drive awareness and address the need.

Women have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, from job loss to evictions and foreclosures. According to The National Women's Law Center, [80 percent](#) of U.S. jobs lost during the COVID-19 pandemic were held by women. The United Nations (UN) has [reported](#) that 40 percent of all employed women globally work in the industries hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"According to NPR, women are now at the lowest workforce participation level since 1988." said Crystal Lazar, President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco County. "The industries that are hit hardest by this pandemic are female-dominated such as the hospitality field. Due to the pandemic, working parents, particularly single mothers, have been faced with the difficulty of balancing child care with paid work, and have quit or reduced their paid work."

Despite the unprecedented challenges women are facing, women remain on the frontlines of the pandemic as essential workers, as caretakers within their households, and too often have to make the difficult decision between maintaining a place to call home and paying for food, health care, childcare, education or reliable transportation. Harvard University's [State of the Nation's Housing 2020 report](#) revealed that 37.1 million U.S. households spent more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing in 2019, including 17.6 million spending more than 50 percent. The effects of the pandemic have further highlighted the need for safe and affordable housing, as 29 percent of renters and 36 percent of homeowners experienced employment income loss between March and September of 2020.

"Rent keeps going up every place and it difficult to find something affordable and decent." said Kaylynn Torres-Rosado, who will be buying the Habitat home being built during International Women Build Week. "I have three kids and it is very difficult having to move every time the rent goes up or the place is too small for us. This is the biggest and greatest opportunity to own a house and become a family of Habitat."

This story is not unique. Every day, millions of women face the challenge of a future without adequate, stable housing. This issue underscores the importance of Habitat and Lowe's efforts to bring awareness to the issue, as well as a partnership focused on ensuring that more women have access to affordable housing.

Lowe's and Habitat's partnership began in 2003. To date, the program has brought together more than 143,000 women volunteers who have built or repaired nearly 6,000 houses. Lowe's has committed more than \$78 million to support the global housing nonprofit's efforts, including the [Women Build program](#), International Women Build Week, and Habitat's [Neighborhood Revitalization program](#). Lowe's support of Habitat has helped more than 18,000 Habitat partner families improve their living conditions.

To learn more or join the conversation, visit [habitat.org/womenbuild](http://habitat.org/womenbuild) or follow #BuildHer and #WomenBuild on social media to share and view stories from around the world.

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### **About Habitat for Humanity of East and Central Pasco County**

Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco County, located in Dade City, FL was founded in 1994. To date, Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco County has empowered 150 families to move from substandard rental housing to owning a decent, affordable home of their own. To learn more about Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco County and how you can make a difference in the lives of deserving families, please visit <http://www.habitatpasco.org>.

### About Lowe's in the Community

As a FORTUNE® 50 home improvement company, Lowe's is committed to creating safe, affordable housing and helping to develop the next generation of skilled trade experts through nonprofit partnerships. Across every community we serve, Lowe's associates donate their time and expertise through the Lowe's Heroes volunteer program. For the latest news, visit [Newsroom.Lowe.com](http://Newsroom.Lowe.com) or follow @LoweMedia on Twitter.



**Listen to leaders and volunteers discuss how Habitat changes lives in your community.**

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