

Alachua Habitat for Humanity (AHFH) is a non-profit organization with the mission of providing safe, decent, and affordable homes for low-income families so that all people may have a decent and affordable place to live. Habitat families, through partnership with AHFH, are offered “a hand up, not a hand out” and the families work hard to become homeowners. In order to be eligible to move in, each family must contribute at least 200 hours of “sweat equity” by working on other Habitat homes and an additional 200 hours working on their own home. Homeowners purchase their homes through a no-interest, 20-30 year mortgage loan, with a \$750 down payment, which in turn helps Habitat to continue its effort in helping people in need by building more homes. This is a revolving fund. Generous donations of money, materials, funding from foundations, businesses, churches, and civic groups as well as countless hours of volunteer support help make the Habitat mission possible.

Alachua Habitat was established in 1986. As of January 2014, Alachua Habitat has built or rehabbed 114 homes in Alachua County. In December 2003, groundbreaking took place for Celebration Oaks, a 30-home Habitat community in southeast Gainesville. The subdivision was completed in the fall of 2011. In June 2012, Alachua Habitat completed its first rehab home project and is currently working on two more rehab projects. AHFH’s Women Build just completed their 6th home. Women Build homes are constructed by women who also do all the fundraising for their build. All of the Alachua Habitat homes are built with an estimated project budget of \$75,000 - \$85,000. When the homes are complete, they will be occupied by families selected by AHFH Family Selection Committee. The families will be offered financial and home maintenance education classes by members of the Alachua Habitat Family Support Teams as the families work with the volunteers to build homes.

In 2012, Alachua Habitat for Humanity joined our national affiliate in participation of a new strategic mission entitled Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI) to expand Habitat services in communities nationwide. Through NRI, new construction will continue but will include a strong home rehabilitation program that will allow Alachua Habitat to take full advantage of foreclosed and abandoned houses in neighborhoods that are struggling to recover from the economic recession. A significant repair program has been developed that includes A Brush with Kindness, Home Weatherization and Critical Home Repair programs for members of our community. These programs are designed to develop working partnerships with other community organizations and agencies to make a larger impact on the number of families that can be helped in the area.