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**Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando
Concludes Annual "Women Build" Fundraising Event**
U.S. Navy Veteran Celebrates New Home for Her Family

ORLANDO, Fla. (May 24, 2016) – In the weeks leading up to Mother's Day, hundreds of Central Florida women came together to take action against poverty housing by participating in [Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando's annual Women Build](#) fundraising event.

During the two-week-long initiative, teams of women volunteered at Habitat Greater Orlando's community [Butler's Preserve](#) to help build a home with future homeowner Rhonza, a U.S. Navy veteran and mother of four. As part of its Women Build 2016, the nonprofit raised more than \$100,000 to date, and teams are still fundraising.

"Words cannot express what it means to have a home of our own," said Rhonza. "We have safety and peace of mind. I'm so thankful to the Habitat family, the volunteers and all the supporters who made this possible."

Prior to the Women Build event, Rhonza completed 300 sweat equity volunteer hours on the construction site, helping to build the homes of other Habitat homeowners. She also qualified for the 0 percent interest mortgage, and took nearly 40 hours of class time, learning topics ranging from budgeting to home maintenance.

"Rhonza is an incredible representation of the many hardworking Habitat homeowners who invest the time and energy to ensure a better life for themselves and their families," said Catherine Steck McManus, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando. "We couldn't be happier for her, and because of the generosity and commitment from so many individuals and corporations, we were able to help Rhonza achieve independence as a homeowner."

In addition to individual supporters, Women Build was sponsored by a number of community partners, including Consulate Healthcare, Florida Hospital, James Hardie, PCL Construction, Rosen Hotels & Resorts, the National Association of Women in Construction and the University of Central Florida.

The Women Build steering committee members included Committee Chair Karen Riggle, Consulate Health Care; Vice Chair Ivy Guardiola, Florida Hospital; Janice Abrew, Rosen Hotels & Resorts; Teresa Colling, SunTrust Bank; and Kate Morin, PCL Construction.

Women Build is a national initiative where women across the country partner with their local Habitat locations to help build decent and affordable housing in their local communities. Lowe's served as the national sponsor this year.

To learn how you can support next year's event, contact Jacqueline Boykin at jboykin@habitat-orlando.org or 407-440-6968.

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando

Habitat Greater Orlando partners with people in the community to build or improve homes. 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.

Habitat Greater Orlando is one of approximately 2,100 local affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International. Support from sponsors, donors and volunteers directly benefit the Central Florida community. To learn more about Habitat Greater Orlando or to make a donation, call 407-648-4567 or visit www.habitat-orlando.org. Like Habitat Greater Orlando on Facebook www.facebook.com/habitatorlando and follow on Twitter [@HabitatOrlando](https://twitter.com/HabitatOrlando).

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