



March 1, 2024

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Alachua Habitat for Humanity Celebrates Success at Inaugural Hall of Framers Event

Gainesville – Alachua Habitat for Humanity hosted its first-ever Hall of Framers event, a night filled with community, compassion, and commitment to making a difference in Alachua County. The event, held on Saturday, February 24th, was a tremendous success, raising over \$100,000 to support Habitat’s mission of building homes, communities, and hope.

The evening was made unforgettable with the support of our generous sponsors, particularly Bryan Builders and Florida Victorious, whose contributions were pivotal in the event's success. Attendees were treated to an exceptional dining experience courtesy of The Porch Meatery & Market, featuring a menu that left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to partake. The evening was further enriched by the presence of UF Gator Football players, who shared their experiences working on Habitat build sites, providing a unique opportunity for attendees to connect with those who directly contribute to our cause.

Highlighting the event was the presence of Coach Billy Napier, whose inspiring words echoed the values at the heart of Habitat for Humanity. The event was skillfully emceed by Ben Boukari, whose charisma and energy kept the audience engaged and entertained throughout the evening. An unexpected highlight was the participation of quarterback Graham Mertz, who stepped in as an unofficial emcee, bringing smiles and laughter to all in attendance.

A memorable moment of the evening was the heartfelt speech by the Ivery family, a current partner family in the process of building their home in the City of Alachua. Shinda Ivery and her youngest son, Dawan, shared their moving journey with Habitat and their excitement about soon having a place to call their own. Their story touched the hearts of many, resulting in over \$20,000 being raised specifically for their home.

Founded in 1986, Alachua Habitat for Humanity is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We envision a world where everyone has a decent place to live and we work towards that vision by bringing people together to build strength, stability, and independence through shelter. To accomplish these goals, we invite people of all backgrounds, races, and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need of affordable housing. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Alachua Habitat has built 179 homes in the local community. Habitat houses are sold to homeowner families financed with mortgages they can afford. For more information visit www.alachuahabitat.org

We are beyond grateful to our community for its overwhelming support and generosity. The funds raised during the Hall of Framers event will enable Alachua Habitat for Humanity to continue its mission of building affordable housing and empowering families within our community. This achievement is a testament to the belief in our mission and the collective effort to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

We invite everyone to visit our Hall of Framers webpage to view photographs from the event, captured by Magnolia Lane Studios, and to watch a video produced by Innova Leaf Creative Solutions that highlights our partnership with Bryan Builders and Florida Victorious. Experience the magic of the evening and see firsthand the impact of community collaboration in action:

<https://www.alachuahabitat.org/hall-of-framers>

Alachua Habitat for Humanity extends its heartfelt thanks to every sponsor, attendee, and volunteer who made this event possible. Together, we are not just building houses; we are fostering hope and creating a brighter future for families in Alachua County.

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