

For Immediate Release:



Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys Executive Director Chris Todd Young welcomed two families – Demetrius and Charmel, with son Ali, left, joined by April Rasmussen, General Manager at Aquarium Encounters, and Jorge and Nicole, with daughter Amelia, right, joined by D'Assign Source Director of Finance Jose Castro – to their new homes.

Habitat for Humanity celebrates trio of new homeowners

MARATHON, FL (July 7, 2026) – Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys recently welcomed its 49th, 50th, and 51st families to homeownership in Marathon.

A dedication ceremony was held Wednesday, July 1, at the newly built duplex on 105th Street, welcoming two families to the home. A third family, who are taking over a previously built Habitat for Humanity home on 51st Street, also was celebrated during the event at the newest Habitat home.

“Our work is vital to the sustainability of our community and our island,” Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys Executive Director Chris Todd Young told the estimated



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crowd of 40 people. "Habitat is sincerely grateful to our supporters who made this day possible."

Young recognized sponsors D'Asign Source and Aquarium Encounters, which donated \$200,000 each to the building of the home.

Following opening remarks from Keys Contracting Services owner Chris Gratton and Affinity Modular District Sales Manager Peter Barbuti, Habitat Family Services Manager Meghan Bolen introduced the three families and presented each with a welcome basket from Habitat, and a cutting board from Affinity Modular.

Pastor John Krainer led the families – Demetrius, Charmel and Ali, and Jorge, Nicole, and Amelia from the 105th Street home, and Brandon, Nicole, Eli and Leo from the 51st Street duplex – and attendees in the Litany of Dedication before all three families took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Numerous city and county dignitaries and staff were on hand for the event, including Monroe County Mayor Michelle Lincoln, Marathon Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo, Marathon City Council member Robyn Still, City Clerk Diane Clavier, and Parks and Recreation Director Scott Williamson.

Additional financial support for the build was provided by Publix Super Markets Charities, Baptist Health, First Horizon Foundation, the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys, and the Florida Association of Realtors, as well as many individual, business, and community donors.

The half-duplexes at the 105th Street location each have two bedrooms and 1½ bathrooms; the home at 51st Street has three bedrooms and 2½ bathrooms. The families are required to complete 100 hours of "sweat equity" in the building and preparation of the homes.

Young noted each family will put in a total of 350 hours of sweat equity, with an

additional 250 hours providing assistance to Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys and other local non-profits.



Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys Executive Director Chris Todd Young takes a moment to thank the many sponsors, donors and volunteers who helped bring the new home on 105th Street to fruition.



Each of the three families received gift baskets from Habitat for Humanity, and cutting boards from Affinity Modular, the home builder.

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