

Jan. 27, 2012

## **Commissioner Christine Robinson dedicates ‘Women Build’ home in South Sarasota County Habitat for Humanity project**

Christine Robinson, Sarasota County Chair, dedicated a duplex home in the Garden Park project of South Sarasota County Habitat for Humanity in Nokomis.

The duplex is a “Women Build” project, in which women learn job skills and are involved in all phases of construction. Garden Park is an 18-family development that began in 2008 with support from Sarasota County government. Twelve families currently live there.

The Garden Park project provides homes to families that they can afford. It increases the tax base, and gives many people their first chance to own a home.

The homes were constructed from the ground up by local women volunteers. Habitat’s “Women Build” program puts tools in the hands of women to create homes that local families can afford. The women’s construction work included the foundation and interior walls, the plumbing and electrical wiring, the interior finishing, the painting and landscaping.

The “Women Build” program offers construction training that builds skills and self-confidence. It also offers women an opportunity to work as a team with other women.

The program creates an awareness about the need for affordable housing and empowers the community to take action against poverty housing conditions and the crisis facing women and children.

For more information on South Sarasota County Habitat for Humanity and Garden Park, go to <http://habitatsouthsarasota.org>.

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