



Dear Habitat Partners,

Habitat for Humanity is known for building homes for all of God's people in need. Here at Beaches Habitat, we also build communities and, most importantly, futures for the families.

Our unique affiliate is home to a bounty of educational resources, such as homeowner education and the opportunity for scholarships for the homeowners and their children. We believe that education is the key to breaking the cycle of need in our community and we are committed to providing those keys to all of our partner families.

The first step we take in building futures is to put our homeowners through several intensive workshops to prepare them to own a home. The workshops include:

- Orientation and Partnering with Beaches Habitat
- Budget and Finance
- Understanding Closing Documents
- Being a Good Neighbor
- Plumbing
- Home Maintenance
- Lawn Maintenance
- Going Green—how to reduce, reuse and conserve energy in your new home
- Making your home beautiful on a budget



Once the partner family moves into the home they receive not only the keys to their front doors, but the keys to their future through the Scheidel Scholarship program. This program allows the homeowner to attend FCCJ and receive an associate's degree at no cost. For their children, they have the option of attending either FCCJ or UNF on a full scholarship. Students who are accepted to UNF in the scholarship program are eligible for a laptop and a semester abroad as well. All students must meet stringent grade and community service requirements to receive and maintain the scholarship.

It is through this commitment to the futures of our partner families that Beaches Habitat continues to grow; with your support, we can unlock the potential of many more needy families in our community.

We have dedicated this issue to our partner families and their bright futures.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Dagher, Board President

## Building Community



The Jareds, with Oscar, on dedication day!

Learn more about the AmeriCorps Program at [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org).

Rob Jared came out to do his application hours in the Spring of 2008...and he is still working on the sites. Rob became a full-time volunteer before he was even approved as a homeowner. Since moving in, Rob has become a full-time member of our construction staff, handling finish work and new construction as a crew leader. For Rob, the best part about being involved with Habitat is the people, the great volunteers.

His son, Josh, also still gives back to the community on the worksite as an AmeriCorps member! The AmeriCorps program allows him to learn the construction trade while earning either scholarship money or cash incentives at the end of his service year. As a homeowner's son, he is also eligible for the Scheidel Scholarship program which will pay for his schooling at UNF or FCCJ. Josh stayed with Beaches Habitat because he wanted to learn how to construct homes and to give back to Habitat.

We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated family who still serves the community through the ministry of Beaches Habitat!

Beaches Habitat is thrilled to bring you the incredible story of Fernando Sola, a current Cabo Blanco homeowner giving back to the community. It began as a desire to travel across the Americas by Jeep.

Why did he want to make the trip? Fernando wanted to meet and talk with people from diverse cultures. He sought to learn and experience life where they were. He found what he went looking for . . . and a whole lot more.

In 1997, Fernando and his friend Horacio Gonzalez started the "Tour of the Americas" and traveled from Alaska to Argentina. The expedition took them through Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, and many other countries, but something that Fernando saw during his travels made his heart ache. He saw countless children begging in the streets. He saw how they were impoverished, malnourished, and uneducated. The sadness of their situation moved Fernando greatly but instead of feeling hopeless, he resolved to do something about it.

Fernando agrees that one of the worst tragedies in life is to do nothing because you think you can do only a little. His longing to help children drove him to start the Happy Faces Foundation in 1999, a non profit organization that delivers donations (clothes, food, toys, and educational materials) to orphanages and organizations that work with them. Fernando's wife Christina and his daughter Marbeli, pictured at right, worked with him to create the Happy Truck and collect tons of toys, school supplies and clothing for children in need throughout North, Central and South America.

We can't thank Fernando enough for his inspirational and selfless giving. He told us that he just wants to see happy faces everywhere!

By Jessica Stuart



## Building Futures

### Do you know about our education programs?

At Beaches Habitat, we understand the role of education in creating economic opportunity and defeating poverty. With the help of generous donors and community supporters, Beaches Habitat offers a variety of educational programs.

The [Scheidel College Scholarship](#) is available to all Beaches Habitat children who maintain good grades in school and can meet the UNF admission requirements. Students receive a full 4 year scholarship that pays for books, meals, tuition and housing. This scholarship was created by Mr. and Mrs. Herb Scheidel along with a generous donation of \$1.25 million. So students, keep up the good grades and take advantage of this amazing opportunity!

The [Scheidel Junior College Scholarship](#) is available to all homeowners and their children for any of the FCCJ campuses in Jacksonville. Students have their tuition paid for and the opportunity to earn an Associates Degree. Homeowner's children then have the opportunity to transfer to UNF to earn their Bachelor's Degree.

The [Prep Club](#) is available for all students for grades K-12. It gives cash rewards for students who earn A's, and B's in academic subjects and perfect attendance. Each Prep Club student is responsible for doing 10 community service hours each school year. Prep Club parties are held at the end of each quarter to celebrate all the students hard work.

The [After School Learning Program](#) partners with the city of Atlantic Beach to help students with homework and offers programs in reading fluency, reading comprehension, math groups and book clubs. It is offered Monday-Thursday and even has field trips along with a little fun time with yoga and karate classes.

To learn more about any of these programs contact Amanda Ward at [awardbh@bellsouth.net](mailto:awardbh@bellsouth.net) or 904-241-1222.



Cora Baldwin

Cora Baldwin has been a Beaches Habitat homeowner since 2003. Cora had originally applied to HabiJax and the wait-time was very long. HabiJax suggested that Cora apply at Beaches Habitat. She was approved and moved into her house within six months.

Prior to applying at Habitat, Cora had started college at Mississippi Delta Community College. With the help of the quick turn-around for her home she was able to finish her college education at UNF and graduate in 2006 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Cora now teaches 5th grade at Arlington Heights Elementary School.

Cora is a single parent of two children named Alexis, age 14 and Jacquez, age 11. Alexis and Jacquez both receive good grades in school and participate in the Prep Club. Cora said she loves the Prep Club for her children because it is an awesome program that gives her children cash rewards for the good grades they earn. Cora said she is very blessed to have such a beautiful home and thanks Beaches Habitat for providing affordable housing for people who need it. She is a remarkable example of building community through teaching as a Beaches Habitat homeowner.

Read more about Beaches Habitat Prep Club online at [www.beacheshabitat.org](http://www.beacheshabitat.org)!

Hi, my name is Danielle Mette and I am a Scheidel Scholar. I graduated from Fletcher High School in 2005 and started my college education at the University of North Florida in the summer of 2005.

I first heard about the Scheidel Scholarship when my mom was approved for a home with Beaches Habitat. With my good grades in high school, I qualified for the scholarship and quickly realized how thankful I was to have this amazing opportunity.

School has been both challenging and fun. I have learned a lot and have met a lot of people over the last couple of years, especially while living on campus. I am currently taking my last three classes and interning with Beaches Habitat. I will be graduating this April with a BS degree in Advertising and with a minor in Art History.

I would like to thank the Scheidel Family for giving me this opportunity to help me achieve my goals in life and Beaches Habitat for providing me with an internship and a beautiful home for my family.





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**For sponsorship opportunities, please contact MaryAnne at  
 904-241-1222.**

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