Affordable housing coming to Hobe Sound

Hobie Hiler Photographer From left are, Robert Simpkins, HSCC vice president; Robert McCormack, HSCC president; Margot Graff, Habitat for Humanity executive director; Mike Readling, Habitat for Humanity director of development; and Joseph Frelinghuysen, HSCC treasurer.

By Mike Readling, YourNews contributor
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HOBE SOUND - The Hobe Sound Community Chest announced at its Leadership Reception Sunday, Feb. 21, the purchase of nearly two acres of vacant land in the Pettway area of Hobe Sound. The land will be donated to Habitat for Humanity of Martin County, which plans to use the property to build up to 20 new homes in the coming years.
Hobe Sound Community Chest has a long history partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Martin County. The two organizations have worked together to build 26 new homes in the Banner Lake neighborhood in Hobe Sound since 1999. This most recent purchase fulfills a longtime goal of expanding the Chest's reach throughout Hobe Sound.

"We have worked for a long time to find the right opportunity to be able to help provide affordable housing throughout the Hobe Sound community," said Robert Simpkins, who serves as a vice president on the Hobe Sound Community Chest board. "This project not only expands the affordable housing footprint in our community, it creates a brand new neighborhood and gives our families more options on where they choose to raise their families."

For Habitat for Humanity of Martin County, the project is a continuation of the organization's move from single home builder to developer. The Pettway project follows in the footsteps of Carter Park, Habitat for Humanity's 40-home neighborhood in Indiantown. Carter Park will be almost halfway complete by the end of June.

"Six years ago Carter Park was a wooded lot, much like this property off of Pettway," said Margot Graff, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Martin County. "We look forward to duplicating the success we have seen in Indiantown here in Hobe Sound. The difference in that community now as compared to four or five years ago is noticeable and wonderful."

Habitat for Humanity of Martin County has built 121 new homes in Martin County during the past 30 years and performed minor rehabs on another 193. To learn more about the Hobe Sound Community Chest, log on to

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