



We build strength, stability, self-reliance, *and* shelter.

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Alachua Habitat for Humanity, Communities that Care, and the North Central Foundation for Affordable Housing Announce Collaboration

Alachua Habitat for Humanity, Communities that Care Community Land Trust, and the North Central Foundation for Affordable Housing are excited to announce their newly found three-way affiliation agreement intended to expand their ability to create affordable housing solutions in North Central Florida.

The need for affordable housing is critical in Alachua County. The Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing Studies at the University of Florida estimates that one-out of every three non-student households in our area is **cost-burdened**, paying more than 30% of their income for housing. One out of every seven are **severely cost-burdened**, paying more than 50%. The lack of affordable housing options destabilizes families, preventing their ability to save for emergencies, and forcing them to move more frequently in search of cheaper housing.

The affiliation will enable the three non-profits to scale their impact and help more families get out of the cycle of rising rents. For Alachua Habitat, using Communities that Care's structure on some of its homes will expand the choices it offers families in need of affordable housing by making homes built on land trust lots one of the options. Communities that Care will benefit from Alachua Habitat's robust affordable housing program, including their Family Services staffing and operational support. It also sees Habitat's role in support of its Heirs' Property Program, an initiative that addresses the largest threat to land loss in the African American community, as critical. The North Central Florida Foundation for Affordable Housing will broaden its ability to fulfill its mission of executing creative housing solutions through the collaboration with two established nonprofits dedicated to remedying the chronic affordable housing shortages. Funding for the entities remains the same with donations designated for each being deposited with that organization, with donor intent fully intact.

"This is a win-win-win for our three organizations," says Scott Winzeler, Alachua Habitat's Chief Outreach and Development Officer, "we will each support the other and be stronger, better stewards of the trust our community has invested in us to provide creative affordable housing solutions."

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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 local families in need of affordable housing. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Alachua Habitat has built more than 160 homes in the local community. Habitat sells the houses to homeowner families at no profit utilizing mortgages homeowners can afford. For more information visit www.alachuahabitat.org.

Communities that Care Community Land Trust was founded as a non-profit organization in 2017 with a mission to develop diverse communities of owner-occupied housing which support low to moderate income working families, ensuring affordability. The Trust buys land and homes with the purpose of keeping them permanently affordable.

Established in 2020, the North Central Florida Foundation for Affordable Housing is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing affordable housing solutions across multiple models.