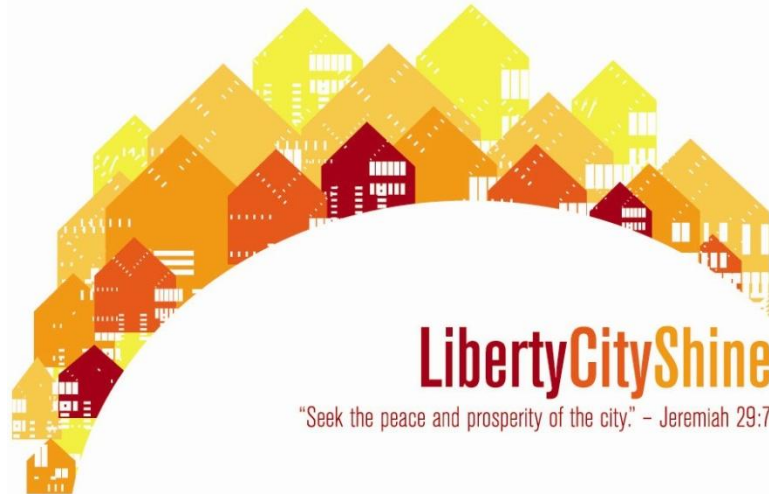




Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami
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Help us make this city shine! Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami is working to transform Liberty City by making affordable homeownership opportunities available for hundreds of families in this once-thriving inner-city community. Miami Habitat's formula for bringing hope to Liberty City calls for the *presence* of concerned individuals and the *investment* of local banks, businesses, churches, and civic and community groups. By partnering with these and the community itself, we can help eradicate poverty housing from this city; with your support, we can make **Liberty City Shine!**

Liberty City is an historically African-American community in the heart of Miami. It was named after the Liberty Square Housing Projects, the first public housing built for African-Americans in Florida. These projects were constructed in the 1930s to help relieve crowded Overtown.

Prior to the 1980s, Liberty City had a thriving business community and was a cultural hub for mostly middle-class families. Today, this neighborhood is known for its strong, community-based churches, as well as its local high school, Miami Northwestern, whose alumni have excelled in politics, law, business, athletics, and entertainment. Unfortunately it is also well-known for the infamous riots of 1980, and the poverty, drugs and violence which now pervade its streets.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami began work in this inner-city neighborhood with the Jimmy Carter work project in 1991, and the construction of 14 new homes and a daycare center. The following year, Hurricane Andrew drew Miami Habitat down south to the Homestead area, where the next six years were spent primarily in hurricane response. From 1998 to 2005, HFHGM built 30 homes in and around the Liberty City area, but with no concentrated impact.

In 2005, the Miami Habitat office relocated to Allapattah, a neighborhood directly south of Liberty City. This year would prove to be a turning point as less than a year later Miami-Dade County asked Habitat to step in and salvage the largely abandoned HOPE VI building project. By constructing 57 homes where

the Scott-Carver public housing units were formerly located, HFHGM had completed its most ambitious urban project yet. It was in this way that God provided Miami Habitat with a strong presence and foundation in Liberty City.

Miami Habitat's plan for Liberty City begins with the construction of new homes built on vacant lots scattered throughout the community, which were donated by Miami-Dade County. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami will use federal stimulus monies (NSP2) to purchase vacant land, and foreclosed and abandoned properties within six Liberty City census tracts. Older homes in need of repair will benefit from Habitat's "A Brush With Kindness" program, designed to refurbish the damaged exterior of homes already owned by low-income families. Miami Habitat will also partner with the Dade Heritage Trust to restore historic houses in the area.

With this stage set, Habitat is poised to take on the call of the Lord found in Jeremiah 29:7. The passage commands the Israelites exiled in Babylon to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city." It instructs God's people to positively impact their cities and transform their communities. "Pray to the Lord for it, for when it prospers, you too will prosper." God wants Liberty City to prosper; He wants Liberty City to shine!

By partnering with committed individuals, companies, churches, and, most importantly, the community itself, Miami Habitat can help break the cycle of poverty and, block-by-block, make **Liberty City Shine**. You can help by donating your time and money. HFHGM needs volunteers out on the worksite and at the ReStore, laboring to keep the cost of the homes affordable. You can also donate funds towards the construction of someone's home, purchasing a door or a window for a family in need. You can *spread the shine* by purchasing a "shine kit," composed of energy-efficient light bulbs and a Bible to be given to each new homeowner. Advocate: you can knock on doors, pick up the phone, or send letters to elected officials to push for affordable housing in our community at the local, state, and national level. And most importantly, pray; pray to the Lord your God for the city, for when it shines, you too will shine!

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami is a Christian ministry which builds homes and communities in partnership with low-income families in need of a simple, decent place to live. Habitat for Humanity makes interest-free loans available for the purchase of these homes, and provides opportunities to all people of conscience to support its mission to break the cycle of poverty. Since its inception, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami has built more than 800 homes in Miami-Dade County. For more information, please visit: www.miamihabitat.org.

We are available to make presentations for employers, organizations and churches.

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