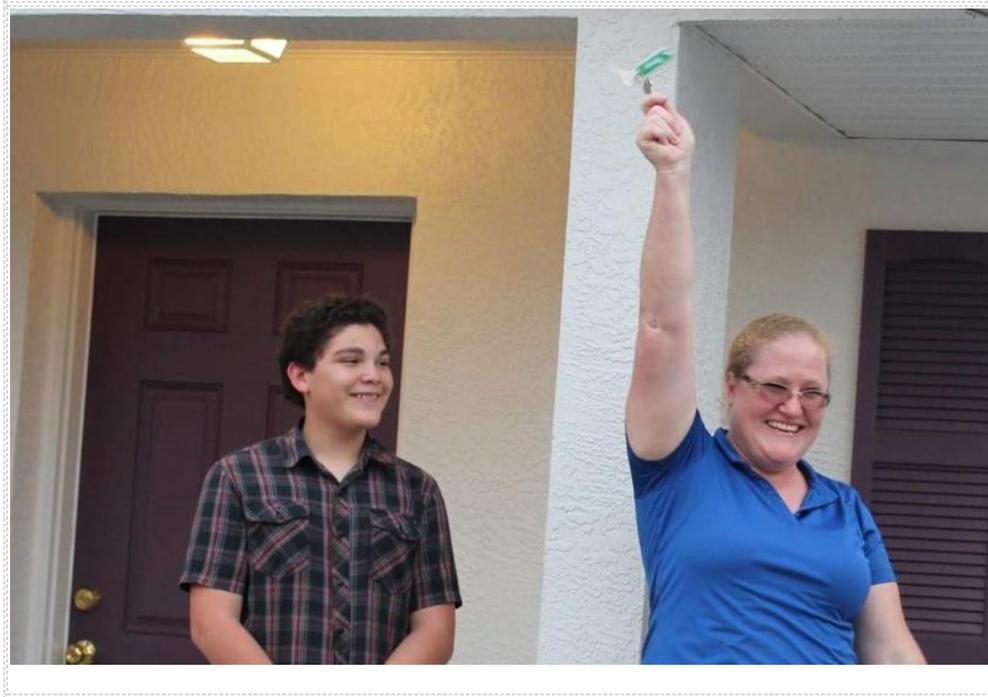


## Arcadia-Desoto Habitat for Humanity Certifies Its First FGBC Florida Green Home



Everyone deserves a safe place to call home. Beth Martinez, a mother of 3, lived in a rental house that had asbestos siding falling off, sloping floors, no air conditioning in the bedroom and bath, and pests infestation untreated by the landlord. Her boss saw Beth working hard to provide for her kids on her own, and suggested she look into Habitat for Humanity. Beth had never considered this option and was hesitant to ask for help. Finally, after much encouragement she attended an orientation and submitted an application. Since then she's worked over 300 volunteer hours for Habitat.



In February of this year, Beth's new home earned a gold-level FGBC "Florida Green" Home certification. It was the first green certified home built by [Arcadia-Desoto Habitat for Humanity](#) and the first FGBC certified home in DeSoto County. Pretty good for a "first try." FGBC Certifying Agent Michael Sollitto, working with Calcs Plus in North Venice, guided the Habitat team through the green construction and certification process.

Energy efficiency approaches, such as ensuring the HVAC ducts are sealed properly and free of leaks, resulted in a

Home Energy Rating Score (HERS) of 63, which is 37% more energy efficient than a typical home built to code standards. Expected annual savings on energy is over \$420, a significant amount of discretionary funds for affordable housing occupants.

Low-flow plumbing fixtures, insulating hot water pipes, installing an EnergyStar certified washing machine, and using drought tolerant turf in the landscape all helped reduce the amount of water used.

To protect the occupants health, indoor air quality was improved by sealing all slab penetrations, providing special moisture control for the tubs and showers, and using Zero VOC paints. Other material selections contributing to air quality were healthy flooring and insulation.