

# SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS JOURNAL

Billionaire MacKenzie Scott donates \$13.5M to local Habitat for Humanity chapters  
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Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami has proposed a townhouse community in Leisure City.

Billionaire [MacKenzie Scott](#), one of the wealthiest women in the world, donated \$6.75 million each to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami and Habitat for Humanity of Broward. It is the largest gift in the Miami nonprofit affordable housing organization's history.

The cost of construction has been increasing by double digits this year and land prices in South Florida have also risen, so the gift will help Habitat move forward with development. The organizations sell homes to low-income families with help from interest-free loans.

Meanwhile, surging home prices and rents have made it much harder for many people to afford a home.

Habitat of Greater Miami said Scott's gift would help offset costs for its [150-unit Habitat Acres](#) townhouse project in the Leisure City neighborhood of south Miami-Dade.

"The impact of a gift of this magnitude is incalculable. It will give us the ability to serve so many more Miami-Dade families who struggle with the crippling lack of housing affordability in our community," said [Mario Artecona](#), CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami. "We cannot express our gratitude enough. This will change many lives for the better."

Habitat Broward said the gift will help it build dozens of new affordable homes.

"This transformational gift will allow us to amplify our work and do so much more, so much faster," said [Nancy Robin](#), CEO and executive director of Habitat Broward. "We are humbled by the recognition and proud to partner with [MacKenzie Scott](#) to address inequities in underserved communities through homeownership."

The funds were part of a combined \$436 million in donations Scott made to over 80 Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the nation. The Habitat chapters in Hillsborough County, Greater Orlando, Pinellas/Pasco counties, Seminole/Apopka counties and Chipola also received donations from her.

An author and philanthropist, Scott is the ex-wife of Amazon.com founder [Jeff Bezos](#), who grew up in Miami-Dade. She joined the Giving Pledge in 2019 and has awarded billions of dollars to nonprofit organizations, including a [big gift to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade](#) a week ago and [major donations to South Florida universities](#) in 2021.



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