



## **Habitat for Humanity**

### *February 2017*

The **Knights of Columbus Council # 13341** has reengaged with **Manatee County Habitat for Humanity** on some local projects. Plans are to develop some closer projects within the Lakewood Ranch Our Lady of the Angels Parish in the coming months.

Ms. Yesenia Garcia with her family and friends had just celebrated the dedication of her new house in West Bradenton built by Manatee County Habitat for Humanity volunteers on Saturday, Feb. 4th.

Nine volunteers from the Knights of Columbus Council 13341, led by John Joly – Our Community Director, participated in the final landscaping phase on Saturdays February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>, along with Yesenia, the Manatee Habitat project team, and three honor students from Lakewood Ranch High School who were earning their community service hours. Activities included ground leveling, shell application, mulching and plantings. The Knights from our council participating were Mike Bujnowski, Matt Cangemi, Rob Colston, Jeffrey Conforte, Jim Coon, Roger Coustry, John Joly, George Martin, and Kevin McCabe.

Yesenia entered the Habitat Home Buyer program November 2014 and has been working steadily towards achieving the goal of home ownership. She represents the 126th Habitat family to become a first-time homeowner through Manatee County Habitat for Humanity. When Yesenia started the program, she said, "I would like to own my own home to have a stable home for my children that is safe and that I can afford." Now she sees that dream coming true as she has been building her home with Habitat volunteers each week since construction started in July. In addition, as part of the Habitat Home Buyer program, Yesenia has participated in home ownership and financial education classes.

Her home is also the 100th house built under the supervision Bruce Winter, Manatee Habitat Construction Director. It is the first of several Habitat homes being built in the City of Bradenton near Village of the Arts.



Our crew of Knights Jeff Conforte, Kevin McCabe, Jim Coon & John Joly. Rob Colston absent. Homeowner Yesenia Garcia in foreground



Hard at Work