***State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program***

**What is the SHIP program and whom does it serve?**

* The SHIP program is used to provide down payment assistance to the very lowest income families that Habitat serves – many of who could not afford homeownership without it.
* SHIP funds are also used to repair housing stock to allow seniors to age in place and retrofitting for individuals with special needs.
* With the help of programs like SHIP, Habitat is able to build, rehab, and repair over 1,110 homes in Florida annually – today there are over 21,000 Habitat homes in Florida.

**How is the program funded?**

* In 1992 the Sadowski Act passed, increasing the doc stamp tax paid on real estate transactions and placing the revenue into a state/local housing trust fund.
* Funding from the Local Government Housing Trust Fund is used for the SHIP program, which finances housing programs throughout Florida.

*\* Please note – Trust funds are separate from the General Fund and DO NOT add to the budget.*

**What is the economic impact of the SHIP program?**

* By leveraging SHIP funds with private donations, Habitat generates;
* $30+ million in business for local subcontractors
* $11+ in property tax revenue
* $10+ million in housing costs savings for Habitat homeowners – allowing them to spend those savings at businesses within their comminutes
* $300+ million positive economic impact in Florida

*\* Fully allocating Local/State Housing Trust Fund money to affordable housing initiatives in FY 2019-20 will create 28,000 jobs and a $4.1 billion positive economic impact.*

**What can be changed going forward?**

* In FY 2018-19 $182 million in SHIP funds were swept into the general revenue fund – with less than 40% of funds being appropriated for affordable housing.
* If SHIP funds are properly appropriated in FY 2019-20, Lee County will receive **8.31 million** in funding.
* We ask that affordable housing trust fund money be used for its intended purpose – so that we can address the housing crisis adequately.