

# The Ledger

## Boral Roofing shows community spirit

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LAKE WALES – It's a big company with a big heart.

That's what Karen Tiner, president of Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County, said about Georgia-headquartered Boral Roofing. The nation's largest maker of clay and concrete roofing tile systems employs about 100 people locally in unincorporated Lake Wales at its largest of 12 locations.

"They are so amazing," Tiner said. "They've been our premier sponsor this past year and this year as well." Donna Baldwin, the company's Lake Wales director of e-commerce and supply chain, said stigmas and stereotypes that come with large corporations don't necessarily apply to Boral. Baldwin said she enjoys working for a company that has built a legacy upon giving back.

"We feel like it has that small-business feel," Baldwin said. "It's been a really great place to work. Many of our employees here in Lake Wales have been here for more than 20 years."

Since its inception in 1987, East Polk's Habitat for Humanity branch has donated more than 140 homes. Boral has provided brick, stone, trim and roofing to the nonprofit.

"It can really be a one-stop shop," Baldwin said. "It's really nice that we're able to offer so much for those building homes."

Boral has also been a supporter of Habitat's two biggest annual events: 5K in the Park and Chili in the Park. Tiner said Boral is a big part of why Chili in the Park was successful this year. "We were able to increase the prize money."

Tiner said Habitat's sponsor levels are based on how much a contributor gives to an event. For Chili in the Park, Tiner said she had about 11 bronze level sponsors and one anonymous silver level sponsor, but Boral was the only gold-level sponsor. Not only that, Tiner said, but Boral makes an effort to put together chili teams and participate in the 5K race.

“They’re not only doing sponsorships, but they participate themselves,” Tiner said. “A lot of sponsors will give you money, but won’t actually come to the event. It’s given a liftoff for our signature events to get even bigger.”

That’s not all that is getting bigger, however. Baldwin said a capital project is underway to expand the Lake Wales facility to add space, production capability and ultimately, jobs. As a resident of Lake Wales and longtime volunteer for with Habitat, Baldwin said she’s happy to be part of a company that cares about the community.

“I’m proud to work for Boral,” she said. “We’re really just seeded into the community. It’s great to live in a small town with a great company and it’s just a great fit.”

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