

Neighborhood Post

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: *Steve Hooks, 39*

Serving area nonprofits, God brings satisfaction to contractor

By MICHELLE MUNDY
 Special to Neighborhood Post

Steve Hooks is thankful. Thankful for his family. Thankful for his business. And thankful he is able to give back to the area where he grew up through his construction business.

His handiwork can be seen across Martin County in the Gertrude Walden Child Care Center and in a neighborhood in East Stuart. His proudest accomplishment is the Boys & Girls Club in Palm City, where he lives.

That project was stuck in the planning stages for five years and did not have enough money to get started. After reaching out to subcontractors, Hooks, 39, was able to complete the project.

The club opened three years ago after businesses donated about \$150,000 in materials and labor.

"It is great to know that we were able to help them in serving the youth in Palm City," he said. "We'd never be able to do that now with everyone struggling (because of the economy)."

Hooks also volunteers with Habitat Angel, a nonprofit organization that brings together people of different faiths to work on community projects. With that group, he has cleaned yards, completed landscaping projects, painted homes and finished repairs.

He started working with the nonprofit when it first started, watching it grow to 700 volunteers.

Although Hooks has been known to coach his children's softball,



RICHARD GRALJON/Staff Photographer

Steve Hooks is the owner of Hooks Construction. A Treasure Coast native, Hooks donates man-hours and expertise for nonprofits in the county.

baseball and football teams, he finds time to also work in soup kitchens with Jennifer, his wife of 16 years, and the couple also teaches Sunday school at Christ Fellowship.

"Most of my volunteering is centered around activities that my family can participate in as well," he said.

Hooks, who grew up in Martin County, said he learned his volunteerism from his mom, and he hopes to pass the desire to give back to his three children.

He calls his construction career an opportunity that led to his giving back to the community in construction hours and volunteer hours.

"I'm blessed," he said.

● neighborhood@pbpost.com

Q&A

What is your most memorable moment?

"Our wedding and the birth of all three kids."

Who is your biggest mentor or inspiration and why?

"The person I go to for strength and direction is God."

What is your favorite book?

"Team Limits by Vince Flynn"

What is your favorite movie?

"Good Will Hunting"

What is your least favorite word?

"Hate"

For what would you like to be remembered?

"Someone who loved God with all he had and did his best to show that love to his family, friends and world around him... and loved to have fun."

What are your hobbies?

Fishing, boating, any type of family fun. "Our kids' sports activities definitely keep us busy, and anything of course involving the Florida Gators."