

Be a
champion
in the lives
of families.



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The Foundation Story

A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Warrick Dunn grew up as the oldest of six children, experiencing the struggles of a single-parent family.

Dunn's mother, Betty Smothers, was a police officer who often worked security shifts to provide for her family. Her goal was to one day realize the American Dream of home ownership. Tragically, Dunn's mother was gunned down in an armed robbery during an off-duty shift, leaving 18-year-old Dunn to care for his five siblings. During his rookie season in the NFL, Dunn realized the impact he could have through a positive image and community involvement. As a result, Dunn established the Homes for the Holidays program in 1997. The Warrick Dunn Foundation was later established in 2002 as a way to grow programs and services for single-parent families in the communities of Atlanta, Ga., Baton Rouge, La., Tallahassee and Tampa, Fla., all cities Dunn has called home. In 2010, the Warrick Dunn Foundation added the word "Family" to its name becoming the Warrick Dunn Family Foundation to illustrate a new direction and devotion to serving families that take the challenging and necessary steps to improve their quality of life.

Homes for the Holidays
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Every
cause
needs its
champions

For more than a decade, the Warrick Dunn Family Foundation has created a network of community leaders, nonprofit organizations and businesses dedicated to providing opportunities for single parents and their children. As the Warrick Dunn Family Foundation continues to pursue its mission of providing opportunities for single-parent families, the Foundation is also researching ways to improve the community through the life lessons and experiences of its founder, Warrick Dunn. Adding "Family" to the Foundation's name reflects the renewed devotion and commitment to helping families that are helping themselves.

Changing Lives

The Homes for the Holidays program transforms the lives of single-parent families by rewarding hard work and recognizing individuals who are actively improving their lives by achieving first-time home ownership.

The desired outcome of Homes for the Holidays is to give single parents an opportunity to establish a positive home environment where their children can thrive educationally, socially and economically. Homes for the Holidays rewards single parents who have demonstrated financial independence by pursuing and accomplishing the American Dream of first-time home ownership. Through a closed nomination process with housing partners such as Habitat for Humanity, single-parent home-buyers are selected. Aaron's, Inc., volunteers and community partners step in to completely furnish each home with appliances, furniture for each room, kitchen supplies, linens, groceries, electronics, books, cleaning products and home decor.

Recipients are presented with \$5,000 in down-payment assistance and a fully furnished home during a formal presentation at their new residence, helping them lower monthly mortgage payments and alleviate the debt often associated with making a house into a home. The Homes for the Holidays program transforms the lives of families and first-time home-buyers by providing the tools to create a stable and happy home.

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