

# Lee Wetherington Companies

## “America’s Best Builder”

### COMMUNITY SERVICE, HONORS AND AWARDS

Quality, integrity and community service are important at Lee Wetherington Companies, and founder/president/CEO Lee Wetherington sets the tone at the top. A leader with a strong social conscience, he stresses the concept of providing full value to customers and giving back to the community. In addition to the many philanthropic activities listed below, since 1996 Lee Wetherington Homes has contributed more than \$2.4 million in cash to charitable organizations within the Sarasota-Manatee community and over \$1 million more in donated time and materials.

### 2007 Honors & Awards

#### Honors to Lee Wetherington Companies

- *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*: First-place winner as “Best Builder” in annual Readers Poll (p. 10).
- **Parade of Homes**: 23 first-place awards including 4 for “Best Overall,” awarded for design features, interior design and landscaping (pp. 10-11).

#### Honors to Lee Wetherington

- **Community Foundation of Sarasota County**: election as Board Chair, 2007 (p. 6).
- *Sarasota Magazine*: selection as one of “100 Most Powerful People in Town” (p. 8).
- **Community Video Archives Hall of Fame**: induction into this prestigious organization that recognizes contributions by some of the area’s most influential citizens (p. 8).
- **Take Pride in America National Award**: nominated by Oscar Scherer State Park in recognition of outstanding contributions and support for the Park and its activities (p. 9).

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

#### **Lee Wetherington Foundation, 2002-present**

Recognizing that Lee Wetherington Companies owes a debt of gratitude to the community in which it functions, President/CEO Lee Wetherington has made "giving back" a vital part of its corporate culture. In 2002, he made an initial gift of \$1 million to establish the Lee Wetherington Foundation—administered by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County—and in December 2005, he contributed an additional \$1 million. The purpose of the Lee Wetherington foundation is to award grants, primarily to those whose needs are not addressed by other governmental or charitable entities, with a focus on the less fortunate and especially on disadvantaged youth. Further, he has made a series of print and electronic ads, “Building Bridges,” to encourage others to make philanthropic contributions.

## **Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County**

Lee Wetherington has been involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County since 1991 and has been on its Board of Directors since 1991. Elected to the Executive Committee in 1998, he became Vice-President in 2000 and President in 2001. That same year, he served as board chair. Wetherington has also chaired the Building Committee, responsible for funding and building the new Fruitville Boys & Girls Club, North Port Boys & Girls Club and proposed Venice Boys & Girls Club. In addition, he serves on the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, working to raise funds and endowments for the Venice, Fruitville and North Port Clubs. Under his leadership, the committee raised \$10 million in seven months.

In 2004, in recognition of his outstanding contributions of time, talent and treasure to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, the Clubs named their newest facility the Lee Wetherington Boys & Girls Club in his honor. The Grand Opening of the 38,000-square foot, state-of-the-art building was held on September 28, 2004.

Under the leadership of Lee Wetherington, Lee Wetherington Homes has become one of the largest contributors in the history of Florida's Boys & Girls Clubs, benefiting over 4,100 kids a year. In recognition of his contributions, the Boys & Girls Clubs have named their newest Club "The Lee Wetherington Boys & Girls Club."

Lee Wetherington Companies has given more than \$600,000 to the children of this community through contributions to the Kids in College Scholarship Fund—which Wetherington founded—and the Boys & Girls Clubs Capital Endowment. In addition, Wetherington's personal donations of time and talent are incalculable.

Below are highlights of Wetherington's contributions to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota:

- In 1995, Lee Wetherington Homes constructed the Boys & Girls Clubs administration building from three donated school portables, raising over \$85,000 in donated labor and materials, with all construction supervision, overhead, and profit donated by Lee Wetherington Homes and its trade partners.
- In 1996, Wetherington established the Kids in College Scholarship Fund for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Each year, this fund bestows a four-year, up-to-\$20,000 college scholarship (\$5,000 per year) on an outstanding member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and a smaller scholarship to a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County. Since the inception of the fund, Lee Wetherington Homes and its subcontractors have donated over \$180,000 through the sale of three benefit homes (1996, 1998, 2000), plus contributions from the sale of Lee Wetherington Homes. Currently, eight young men and women from Sarasota and Manatee Counties are attending college through this program.

- In 1999, with the help of students from Pine View School, kids from the Boys & Girls Clubs, and donations from various vendors, Lee Wetherington Homes supervised the building of a Storybook Playhouse for the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens summer reading program. The home, based on *The Secret Garden*, was later sold in a fund-raising event, with proceeds going to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County.
- In 2000, Wetherington established a Mentoring Program to provide direction and guidance for the youngsters who attend the Boys & Girls Clubs. Despite his crowded schedule, he has made time to mentor several young people.
- Beginning in 2003, Wetherington provided significant financial and construction support of \$385,000 for the new, 38,000-square foot, \$4.8 million Lee Wetherington Boys & Girls Club.
- The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County held a reception on Thursday, May 19, 2005, to honor 30 area contractors for their contributions to the Clubs' new administration building, named "The Lee Wetherington Trade Partners Building." Lee Wetherington, president of Lee Wetherington Companies, and trade partners cut a ribbon granting official access to the 2,445-square-foot building at 3100 Fruitville Road. Completed in just four months, the building is valued at \$300,000 "and every cent was donated," says J. Mack Reid, president/CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County.

#### **Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, Inc., 2001 - present**

Lee Wetherington was named to the board of directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, Inc., in 2001. He had already been working with these Clubs for many years and provided Kids in College scholarship support among other contributions. Lee Wetherington Companies and trade partners also donated funds and labor to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, valued at \$80,000, to update and remodel the Bradenton Unit, a building constructed in 1925. In addition, the company presented a technology grant that allowed the purchase of a new server and associated software to provide networking, backup capabilities, virus prevention and greatly increased efficiency.

#### **Fruitville Public Library of the Sarasota County Library System, 2002**

In January 2002, Lee Wetherington met with representatives from the new Fruitville Public Library (of the Sarasota County Library System) and its not-for-profit support group, The Friends of Fruitville Public Library, to develop a productive use for the empty space just outside its back doors. Wetherington suggested a unique Reading Garden and donated the resources of Lee Wetherington Companies to make it a reality. He spearheaded a campaign to secure donations of labor and materials for the Garden, which has a Storybook Cottage and stage, waterfall, butterfly garden, herb garden, scented garden, birdhouse, bat house and many other special features. Developed in a public-private partnership among Sarasota County, Lee Wetherington Companies, trade partners, and the Home Builders Association of Sarasota County under the Home Builders Care program, the Reading Garden held its Grand Opening in October 2002. Since then, the Garden has become a cherished, valued asset for residents and the Sarasota County Library System. Valued at more than \$250,000, the Reading Garden began to garner awards even in its first year of operation:

- **2003 Environmental Education Award**, Sarasota County Conservation Committee.
- **\$20,000 Grant from William G. Selby and Marie Selby Foundation** to develop a special garden-theme collection of books, videos, DVDs, and audio books.
- **2003 Florida Library Association Friends & Trustees Special Project Award**, presented in recognition of the successful Reading Garden project, with special recognition for the community partnerships initiated by Wetherington and developed through the project.

#### **Oscar Scherer State Park, 2002-present**

Lee Wetherington Companies has provided marketing and other financial support to Oscar Scherer State Park in an amount exceeding \$65,000 to date:

- Since 2002, Lee Wetherington Companies has provided support for the Scrub Jay 5K Run and One-mile Fun Run/Walk, an annual fundraiser. Beginning in 2003, that assistance included marketing support that resulted in an 86 percent increase in entries from 2003 to 2004 (to 400 participants) and a corresponding increase in income for the Park.
- Lee Wetherington Companies donated \$250 from the sale of every home in Willowbend, a Lee Wetherington community adjacent to Oscar Scherer Park.
- Lee Wetherington Companies is donating 20 acres, valued at \$2,000,000, to Oscar Scherer State Park. The Park will use for buffering from surrounding urbanization.

#### **American Heart Association, 2002-2005**

Beginning in 2002, Lee Wetherington Companies has fielded a team for the annual American Heart Association Heart Walk on Siesta Beach and has also undertaken additional company-wide fundraising activities—including a chance for associates to drop CEO Lee Wetherington into a dunk tank. Donations to date have exceeded \$18,000.

#### **Salvation Army of Sarasota, 2001-present**

Lee Wetherington is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Salvation Army in Sarasota, Florida, and has been honored for his outstanding support with the 2004 Alex Schoenbaum Humanitarian Award.

#### **National Association of Home Builders, Inc., 1991-present**

Lee Wetherington was a member of the NAHB Board of Directors from 1991 to 1996, serving on committees for State and Local Government Affairs in 1992-1994. He is a Spike Club member with 387 Spike Credits. In addition:

- In April 2003, Lee Wetherington Homes was named to the Home Builders Care Honor Roll, sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders, in recognition of the company's many community service projects since the program began in 2000.

- In 2002, Lee Wetherington Companies spearheaded the design and construction of the Reading Garden at Fruitville Public Library (described later in this section) as a project of Home Builders Care.
- Lee Wetherington Homes was recognized by Home Builders Care on May 24, 2002 for conducting "They Need to See Rainbows," a program in which Lee Wetherington personally toured fifth-grade students from an inner-city school, to teach them about the home building industry and careers available to those who stay in school.
- Lee Wetherington Companies was heavily involved in the development of the Paul Salter Home in 2001-2002, in coordination with the HBA of Sarasota County, as mentioned on the next page.
- Home Builders Care recognized Lee Wetherington Homes on December 7, 2000—and again on October 25, 2001—for donating hundreds of thousands of dollars from the sale of its homes. The contributions have been given to the Kids in College Scholarship Fund that Lee Wetherington instituted for members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County and Manatee County.

#### **Home Builders Association of Sarasota County, Inc., 1981-present**

Company president Lee Wetherington has been active with the HBA of Sarasota County since 1981, chairing numerous committees before and since his term as President in 1992. He continues to serve on its Board of Directors and was named 2003 Builder Member of the Year.

- Lee Wetherington Companies worked closely with the HBA of Sarasota County and Sarasota County government on a public awareness campaign to counteract claims by those demanding that the County impose a building moratorium. The opponents of growth became extremely vocal in 2001-02 when County Government debated "Sarasota 2050," its pioneering land use plan based on "Smart Growth." The coordinated response from the HBA and its deeply committed members—including Lee Wetherington Companies—helped convince the County Commissioners to pass the forward-looking 2050 plan.
- Lee Wetherington Companies was a major contributor to the Paul Salter Home, a special home for the son of a construction worker (plumber). The 13-year-old became a paraplegic in a football accident and needed special facilities to survive. Working under the auspices of the HBA of Sarasota County, Lee Wetherington Companies provided free design and public relations services, concrete blocks, stucco work and the design and construction of a special heated therapy pool with switchback ramp for wheelchair use. The NAHB named the Salter Home its 2002 Project of the Year under the Home Builders Care program.

### **Home Builders Association of Manatee County, Inc., 1997-present**

Lee Wetherington is an active member of the HBA of Manatee County. He has served on the Board of Directors since 1997 and was President from 2000-2001. During that term, he established a marketing task force, which also called on the resources of the HBA of Sarasota County and developed a special brochure, "The Home Building Industry. . . Making a *Positive Impact* on Our Community." Five thousand copies of this brochure were printed, with distribution beginning at the 2001 Manatee-Sarasota Parade of Homes Banquet. Upon completion of his presidency, Wetherington was named Manatee's "2001 Builder of the Year."

### **United Way of Sarasota County, Inc., 1992-1997**

Lee Wetherington organized and co-chaired United Way's first Day of Sharing in 1992 and repeated his leadership role in subsequent years.

- **1992 United Way Day of Sharing:** For Children's Haven and Adult Community Services, Wetherington coordinated donations of labor and materials from Lee Wetherington Homes and others in the building industry to revamp a group home for eight developmentally handicapped young women. He raised over \$400,000 in labor and materials and supervised 400 volunteers who refurbished, cleaned and painted seven buildings in the complex. Contributions of labor and materials resulted in the installation of a new hot-water heater, roof, fascia, bathroom, kitchen, pool area and flooring.
- **1994 United Way Day of Sharing:** To benefit five different organizations at five different sites, Wetherington spent nine months organizing and chairing a vast project. He supervised 800 volunteers and coordinated over \$750,000 donated in labor and materials to refurbish ten buildings.
- **1995 United Way Day of Sharing:** Wetherington headed teams of volunteers who refurbished a group home for Project Rainbow (Easter Seals) by installing new cabinets, flooring, patio and deck, and by painting the facilities.
- **1997 United Way Day of Sharing:** Wetherington organized and helped raise over \$25,000 worth of labor and material for The Loveland Center for the Disabled in Venice, Florida.

### **Children's Haven and Adult Community Services, Inc., 1991-1994**

Lee Wetherington volunteered his time and talents to this organization from 1991 to 1994 and, as described above, organized and co-chaired United Way's first Day of Sharing to benefit Children's Haven and Adult Community Services.

### **Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2003**

A member of the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County since 2003, Lee Wetherington was elected to the position of Board Chair in 2007. He has been an active member of the scholarship and marketing committees. The Community Foundation was created in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council to encourage philanthropic individuals to leave a charitable legacy to the citizens of Sarasota County.

### **Sarasota School Board, 2002**

When the Volunteer and Business Coordinator of Emma E. Booker Elementary School considered the future her fifth-grade students might anticipate, she saw only bleakness. "They need to see rainbows," she declared, and asked Lee Wetherington Companies to arrange a new-home tour that would uncover a broader horizon for kids. Wetherington took the students through a model, pointing out new-home features and linking them to career opportunities for the youngsters who stay in school. The School Board has pronounced the program a success and will repeat the experience with Lee Wetherington Companies.

Earlier, in 1994, Lee Wetherington co-chaired a community-wide campaign to increase an *ad valorem* tax to help fund the schools. Wetherington worked with "Citizens for Better Schools" and other citizen groups in this successful campaign, in which the tax was approved by referendum and instituted in place of impact fees.

### **Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, 2000-present**

A member of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Lee Wetherington Companies also belongs to its Better Business Council. The company was 2001 winner of the CED's Excellence in Industry Award under the Service category and has sponsored that award since 2002. Lee Wetherington is a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors. He also served on the Search Committee to identify a new Executive Director for the Chamber.

- Since 2002, Lee Wetherington Companies has sponsored the Service Award for the annual Excellence in Industry recognitions.
- Lee Wetherington has played a leadership role on several committees working to develop an effective program to provide Affordable Housing in the community.

### **Manatee Chamber of Commerce, 1999-present**

Lee Wetherington Companies is a member of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce and its Economic Development Council.

### **Sarasota County Government, 1992-2004**

Since 1992, Lee Wetherington has served on the Sarasota County Building Committee and its Advisory Committee, which is a liaison between the building industry and government. As mentioned above.

- From 2000-2004, Lee Wetherington Companies helped the HBA of Sarasota County in a public awareness campaign surrounding the County's consideration of its land use plan, Sarasota 2050.
- In 2001, Lee Wetherington and Lee Wetherington Companies played a key role in helping to develop the Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance that Sarasota County adopted in January 2002.

- In 2002 (as described on page 3), Lee Wetherington Companies spearheaded a private-public partnership to build a Reading Garden at Fruitville Public Library.
- In 2004, Lee Wetherington was appointed to the County's Workforce Housing Group, a committee of community leaders developing policies and implementation strategies for workforce housing in Sarasota.

## Support for Other Organizations

Lee Wetherington and Lee Wetherington Companies has also provided support to the following organizations, among others:

- Lakewood Ranch Community Fund
- McNeal Elementary School
- Manatee Glens
- American Jewish Committee
- Coalition to Assist Supported Living
- Community Youth Development Project
- G. Wiz
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Rotary Club
- Salvation Army Faith Program for Homeless
- SCOPE
- Sertoma
- Suncoast Foundation for the Handicapped
- USF Foundation
- Sarasota Film Festival
- Sarasota Reading Festival

## Honors & Awards

### Honors to Lee Wetherington

Lee Wetherington has been personally honored for his contributions to community organizations. These recognitions include:

- **2007 Induction into Corporate Video Archives Hall of Fame** by the not-for-profit CVA, a living history organization founded to recognize living people who have impacted and shaped the community. The organization recognized Lee Wetherington for his countless successful activities over many years to positively shape the lives of people in the community.
- **2007 Selection as one of "100 Most Powerful People in Town,"** chosen by *Sarasota Magazine*, which honors Lee Wetherington for being "one of the biggest donors in the history of the Boys & Girls Clubs and, with his "Building Bridges" campaign, encouraging others to give to the Community Foundation."

- **2007 Take Pride in America National Award:** nominated by Oscar Scherer State Park in recognition of outstanding contributions and support for the Park and its activities. This includes lead sponsorship of the annual 5K Scrub Jay Race as well as donations of funds and acreage.
- **2004 Special Award from** Southwest Florida Water Management's Manasota Basin Board for Wetherington's commitment to water resources: for taking the lead in getting Sarasota County's landscape ordinance passed, for adopting Florida-friendly landscaping practices in his developments, including practices developed by the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service as Florida Yards and Neighborhood (FYN); and for demonstrating to fellow builders that these new landscapes can be attractive and efficient and that people will buy them.
- **2004 Alex Schoenbaum Humanitarian Award,** presented by the Salvation Army of Sarasota.
- **2003 Builder Member of the Year,** presented by the Home Builders Association of Sarasota County.
- **2003 Hearthstone Builder Lifetime Public Service Award,** a national distinction that recognizes Wetherington's extraordinary dedication to helping others. Wetherington donated the \$150,000 cash prize to the nominating organization, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County (\$110,000) and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County (\$40,000).
- **"Entrepreneur 2003,"** presented by *Gulf Coast Business Review*. Lee Wetherington was first-place winner, in recognition not only of his outstanding business success but also of his corporate and personal philanthropy.
- **"2001 Builder of the Year,"** presented by the Home Builders Association of Manatee County.
- **"Lee Wetherington Helping Hands Award,"** a new award created by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County to honor Lee Wetherington for outstanding community service. In his honor, this award is presented to a worthy recipient every year.
- **"Florida Board Member of the Year, 1998,"** a statewide honor bestowed by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Florida.
- **"1997 Distinguished Volunteer Vocational Service Award,"** presented by the Rotary Club of Sarasota for outstanding community service to children.
- **"1995 Board Member of the Year,"** presented by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, Inc.
- **"Chairman's Award for Outstanding Contributions to the 1993 Workers' Compensation Task Force,"** awarded by the State & Local Government Affairs Committee, National Association of Home Builders.

### Honors to Lee Wetherington Companies

As the builder of more than 2,500 homes in the area's most prestigious communities, Lee Wetherington Companies is esteemed by the most demanding of audiences: business and trade associations, peers, media, consumers and the discriminating people who have chosen to live in homes by Lee Wetherington Homes. These honors attest to the high regard in which Lee Wetherington Companies is held. Recent awards for achievements in quality, service and community responsibility include:

- **“Best Builder 2007,” “Best Builder 2006,” “Best Builder 2005,” “Best Builder 2004,” “Best Builder 2003,” “Best Builder 2002,” “Best Builder 2001” and “Best Builder 2000”** to Lee Wetherington Homes, selected as first-place winner by consumers in the Readers’ Choice Poll of the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*. This is the 16th consecutive year that the company has been first-place winner or finalist in this poll.
- **“2006 Florida Friendly Landscaping Award”** from the University of Florida’s Builder/Developer Program of the Florida Yards and Neighborhood Programs, awarded for the Lee Wetherington Development of Willowbend.
- **“2005 Honorable Mention National Housing Endowment Builder Achievement Award,”** awarded by the National Housing Endowment, the philanthropic arm of the NAHB, for outstanding contributions to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County.
- **“2004 America’s Best Builder”** designation, awarded by the National Association of Home Builders and *Builder* Magazine (companies building 101-500 homes per year). Selection criteria were finance/operations; customer service/quality; community/industry service; design/construction; and marketing.
- **“2003 Corporate Philanthropist of the Year”** honor awarded by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Southwest Florida for LWC’s leadership and contributions in developing the Fruitville Public Library Reading Garden, “a most popular destination for children and adults,” according to Sarasota County Government, which made the nomination—one of three for LWC and Lee Wetherington.
- Four **"2003 Pool Design"** awards to LeeSure Water Pools from the Florida Pool & Spa Show.
- **"2003 Manasota Chapter Director of the Year”** award from the National Spa and Pool Institute—Florida to Todd Hubbard, manager, LeeSure Water Pools.
- **Annual Parade of Homes Awards**, sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Sarasota County and the Home Builders Association of Manatee County. Since 1993, Lee Wetherington Companies has won over 318 Parade of Homes awards, many for “Best Overall”—more than any other builder in this two-county area, including multiple Waterwise and Landscaping Awards for environmental awareness.

- \* In the **2007 Parade of Homes**, Lee Wetherington Companies won the most awards of all participating builders within the two counties, taking honors in 23 categories including four for “Best Overall” homes—more than any other builder
  - \* In the **2006 Parade of Homes**, Lee Wetherington Companies won the most awards of all participating builders within the two counties, taking honors in 25 categories including four for “Best Overall” homes—more than any other builder. Of special note among the honors are **10 environmental awards** presented by the University of Florida’s Cooperative Extension: **seven Florida “Green Home” awards** and **three for Water Wise Landscaping** (judged by the Southwest Florida Water Management District).
  - \* In the **2005 Parade of Homes**, Lee Wetherington Companies won 20 awards including the **2005 Waterwise Landscape Recognition Awards for both Sarasota County** (Casablanca in Tuscana) and **Manatee County** (Addison in Legends Walk).
  - \* In the **2004 Parade of Homes**, Lee Wetherington Companies won the most awards of all participating builders within the two counties, taking honors in 39 categories including a record-breaking six for “Best Overall” homes. Of special note among the honors: **“2004 Southwest Florida Water Management District Waterwise Award for Sarasota County,”** presented for the second year in a row for the Opal in Willowbend; judged by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
  - \* In the **2003 Parade of Homes** Lee Wetherington Companies won the most awards of all participating builders within the two counties, taking honors in 39 categories including three for “Best Overall” homes. Of special note among the honors:
  - \* In the **2002 Parade of Homes**, Lee Wetherington Companies won the most awards of all participating builders within the two counties, with 32 prizes including **five for “Best Overall” homes, five for "Best Pool," and two for "Best Landscaping,** as well as the **2002 Southwest Florida Water Management District Waterwise Award for Manatee County”** for the Provence at Ashland in The Country Club at Lakewood Ranch, as judged by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
- **“Resource Conservation Award 2002,”** presented by Sarasota County and the Conservation Committee 2002 for “leading the way in the conservation of natural resources”: for leadership in environmental landscaping, home energy and water efficiency; winning numerous environmental home building awards at the Annual Parade of Homes during the past six years; adopting the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods landscaping principles for all future developments; providing key support in developing Sarasota County’s Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance (adopted in January 2002); developing Willowbend as a “green” community; and providing a special environmentally sound Reading Garden at Sarasota County’s new Fruitville Library.
  - **Four 2002 ADDY prizes,** presented by the Advertising Federation of the Suncoast, including the **People’s Choice Award and three Silver Addy Awards.**

- **“Service Company of the Year 2001”** for Excellence in Industry, presented by the Committee for Economic Development of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce.
- **“Best of the Best, 2001,”** title for the Paloma and Florenza model homes; chosen by visitors during the annual Lakewood Ranch Tour of Homes, where Lee Wetherington Homes won against all other builders in two of seven categories.
- **“2001 Rookie Salesperson of the Year,”** presented by the Florida Home Builders Association to Barry Bright, a Lee Wetherington Homes associate, for outstanding performance.
- **Multiple Aurora and Excel awards** for exceptional home design, website design, TV commercial and other accomplishments.