

December 16, 2011

New Construction Projects Bring 1,500 Jobs to South Florida

Housing construction projects will bring 1,500 jobs to South Florida.

By Willard Shepard

Santa is bringing a bag full of 1,500 construction jobs to South Florida for plans to create four new high-rises.

Old Saint Nick first brought Donald Brownlee his 3-month-old daughter Marantha. Then he brought him work.

Brownlee is part of the initial crew expanding the Acqualina Resort and Residence in Sunny Isles. He is a skilled bricklayer and this is the first masonry work he's found in years.



"I thank God for being able to acquire this job. Before I had this job I was off work for a period of time and this is really going to be a joy for the holidays," Brownlee said.

Michael Goldstein, of Acqualina, is happy to be providing jobs. He says that more than 700 workers will be hired to build the luxury 41-story tower.

"That filters down not just from the people that are working here but also those supplying us with the materials and the fabrics and the appliances. We are excited now to put some people back to work," Goldstein said.

More jobs will also be created in other areas of Miami. In Brickell, the Brickell House and My Brickell will create a combined 530 jobs. The Apogee Beach condos in Hollywood will create 230.

"For every housing unit we create, it generates about seven job, direct and indirect, so it's huge, it's huge," said Harvey Hernandez of the Brickell House.

The jobs pay an average of \$10 to \$20 dollars an hour. You can find out how to apply on www.coastalconstruction.com.