

# Corporate Global Volunteering Building Hope and Teams

**Habitat for Humanity is a global, Christian housing organisation which welcomes people of all faiths and none to help build a world where everyone has a decent place to live.**

One in four people in our world live in poor housing. Families are forced to live in places that are cold and damp, overcrowded or do not have a door that locks. Simple homes save lives. Families are healthier, children do better in school and parents have a chance to earn a stable income.

Since 1976 Habitat has helped more than 46 million people to improve their living conditions. Habitat advocates to improve access to affordable shelter and support funding models that enable families with limited resources make vital improvements to their homes.

Habitat is led by local people, who are housing experts in 70 countries, understanding the need and developing innovative ways to respond.

## **Habitat:**

- **Supports communities through water and sanitation projects**
- **Helps disaster affected communities to move from ruin to recovery and works to reduce vulnerabilities and build community resilience.**
- **Delivers programmes for the most vulnerable eg; leprosy affected families, HIV/Aids, orphans and widows.**
- **Provides loans for repairs and home improvements**
- **Helps people to access secure land tenure**
- **Delivers construction training and education programmes**
- **Advocates to change housing policies and systems which keep people locked in poverty**

Across Ireland, more than 30,000 volunteers have joined Habitat locally and globally, engaging in practical projects which break down barriers, build strong communities and help change lives.

In Ireland, Habitat directly tackles poverty through its network of Habitat ReStores which provide access to low-cost home improvement materials, employability training for people of all abilities and diverts tons of material from landfill. Habitat also raises funds to support long-term partner programmes in some of our world's poorest communities.



**You get far more return on this investment than any other team building event. This is real – real problems, real solutions with real differences made.**

Michael Kirkwood, CMG Citi



### Why send volunteers?

Volunteers travel in support of Habitat Ireland's longterm partner programmes, maximising the impact of our support. They see first-hand the reality of poverty housing and serve alongside families in some of the world's poorest communities.

Our goal is to make sure that volunteers understand WHY housing is critical in breaking the cycle of poverty and HOW the Habitat model creates lasting change in communities; providing employment, boosting the economy and empowering local people to build strength, stability and independence on the solid foundation of a safe home.

We hope that volunteers will be inspired to support Habitat's work; changing the future for many more families they will never meet but who wait for a hand up to a better future.

#### Company Benefits:

- Team building opportunities
- Leadership Development
- Employee Engagement
- Reward and recognition
- Opportunity to contribute to Habitat's work and create positive change
- Understand the impacts of poverty housing and the solution
- Direct experience of working with families and communities
- Can provide a platform to raise Company profile locally, nationally and globally.

### Need to Know

Every trip is different. Our team will work directly with you to develop a trip which fits your strategic objectives while delivering our programme goals.

Habitat Ireland supports long-term international partnerships in Cambodia, Romania, Malawi, Poland, Jordan, India, Ethiopia and Zambia. It is currently possible to travel within our region – to Romania, Poland and Jordan.

### The Team

You can choose to build your own team, whether for staff, clients or to engage your wider network, you can be sure of real impact.

You can also choose to travel on one of the teams that Habitat has organised. Full details of these teams can be found on our website.

### The work

No construction experience is needed, as all sites are supervised and full training is provided by the local Habitat construction staff.

### Budget

Average budget per person of £/€2,000-2,500 which includes flights, accommodation, travel insurance, airport transfers, in country travel, meals, on-site refreshments, team t-shirts, safety equipment, training/supervision and a donation towards Habitat's work.

### The Journey begins at the end

The scale of poverty housing is too big to solve by only sending volunteers. With more support Habitat will be able to help more families because everyone, everywhere deserves a place to call home. We challenge companies to think beyond their trip from the beginning and plan to raise funds to support the programme into the future.

**Global Volunteering with Habitat is the best staff development investment I could make. Taking staff away from the office and challenging them to work together delivers significant benefits for our people and the company and transforms the lives of families in need. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes I mightn't have believed it.**

Seamus McKeague, CEO Creagh Concrete



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