

Spring 2008

Habitat for Humanity

Building homes, building hope



Inside:

The need in
New Zealand
for affordable
healthy housing

Sponsors nail it home

Guys vs Gals:
the Hamilton Blitz
Build showdown



New Zealand's first Habitat Awareness Week

It's exciting and inspiring to have Jonathan Reckford here to help us celebrate New Zealand's first Habitat Awareness Week, which runs from 5 -11 October. We have some important events happening around the country – builds, house dedications, local community events and more.

Celebrating World Habitat Day

I am really looking forward to celebrating World Habitat Day in New Zealand this year. And no matter where we might find ourselves on this year's World Habitat Day, we can participate in a way that helps underscore the housing hardships so many families face every day around the world.

The first World Habitat Day was held in 1986, to recognise the state of human settlements and the basic need for adequate shelter for all. The day also serves as a reminder to everyone in the world that we share responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

On World Habitat Day we have a special opportunity to highlight the need and importance of housing, and to exchange effective ideas and solutions.

This year's theme - 'A Place to Be' – emphasises the importance of feeling secure, safe and comfortable in your own home. Secure tenure gives families a place to be – a place to be safe, a place to be secure, a place to thrive. This in turn creates better, stronger, healthier families and communities.

I urge you to actively participate on World Habitat Day. Give a voice to the voiceless and let it be known that durable, adequate housing should be a priority everywhere – in your community, in your town, in your country, in our world.

Jonathan Reckford, Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity International

This year's theme, 'A Place to Be', is particularly relevant to us here in New Zealand. We have some of the least affordable housing in the developed world, and an estimated 29% of tenant households are experiencing housing stress. As Habitat for Humanity's efforts gather momentum, we're helping to alleviate these problems through the provision of affordable, appropriate housing.

At Habitat, we believe that not only can houses fulfil aspects of a community's needs, but the process of housing can create significant and long lasting positive change. Through the process of housing, communities can build physical, spiritual and social assets that will pay dividends for many, many years. To show how this works, this newsletter carries a fantastic story on Kim Anderson, one of our home partners, and her amazing work in the community.

World Habitat Day is an opportunity for each of us to be thankful for our own good fortune, and ask how we can give back to our communities. There are several ways in which you can support us – you can help financially, donate your time as a volunteer, or donate second-hand goods to our ReStores.

The job of building a better New Zealand begins at a place we can all relate to – home. Please help us build a better New Zealand where everybody has a simple decent place to sleep at night.

Tony Lanigan, Chairman
Habitat for Humanity New Zealand



www.habitat.org.nz

Earlier in year we launched the new look website. You can find lots of great information online about:

- Applying for a Habitat home
- Volunteer opportunities both locally and abroad
- Local affiliate news and contact details

You can now also donate online or find out about our regular giving programme, Habitat HopeBuilder.

So next time you are online, check us out – you can even let us know what you think via the "contact us" page.

The need for affordable, healthy housing in New Zealand

“Poverty is...moving houses, always moving – stressful. Having to move in the middle of the night – unable to pay rent, scary. You don’t make a lot of friends if you’re moving a lot.”

Group definition of poverty from young people in Paeroa, as reported in ‘A Fair Go for all children: Actions to address child poverty’.

Extensive research is confirming what we have always suspected: There is a strong link between inadequate housing and negative health and social outcomes.

A recently released report for the Children’s Commissioner and Barnardos, ‘A Fair Go for all Children: Actions to address child poverty’, provides an in-depth look at the realities of child poverty in New Zealand, including the many negative impacts of poor housing conditions.

The link between damp and disease

The report, written by Michael Fletcher and Máire Dwyer, draws on the comprehensive research being carried out by the University of Otago, Wellington He Kainga Oranga /Housing and Health Research Programme. It points out that damp, cold housing is directly linked to several illnesses and diseases, including asthma, rheumatic fever, tuberculosis (TB), skin diseases and depression.

Programme director Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman said that people living in better-insulated homes suffered less from cold and flu, which translated into fewer GP visits and less days off school. What’s more, overcrowded housing has

been linked to the spread of infectious diseases such as TB and meningococcal disease. According to the Ministry of Social Development, in 2006 around 10% of New Zealanders were living in overcrowded conditions.

Children are at risk

A Fair Go for all Children also highlights how overcrowding makes it difficult for children to achieve at school. More than one in 10 New Zealand students reported that they don’t have a suitable space to study.

As Habitat home partner Liva Muliaga says, “Your environment plays a big part in who you are. In our old house there was no room for the children to have any privacy. No room for them to do their study and their homework. I didn’t want for their environment to affect them somewhere down the line.”

Supporting Habitat’s World Habitat Day theme of ‘A Place to Be’ and secure tenure, A Fair Go for all Children also discusses how unsatisfactory housing can lead to families moving often. These frequent upheavals make it difficult for children to maintain friendships and social connections, attend school and get consistent healthcare from a family doctor.

Builders, reach for your hammers

It all adds up to a very real need for decent, affordable homes in New Zealand. The 317 families that Habitat for Humanity has already helped here is just the beginning. There’s much more work to be done.

To read the full report, go to www.occ.org.nz/childpoverty

Habitat home partner highly commended in awards

The stabilising influence of a Habitat home gave Northlander Kim Anderson the confidence to make a difference in her community.

Kim’s house in Ikatere Street, Whangarei, was completed in early 2005. The experience of helping to build her own home, which she shares with her twin 16-year-old boys, stirred her to become an effective, widely-admired community leader.

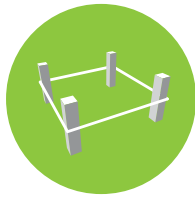
As the chairperson of the Smeaton Drive community committee, Kim helped to clean up a heavily tagged fence, organise an after-school programme, campaign for better footpaths and have the community hall refurbished. In her own words, “I do whatever it takes to get things done.”

Recently Kim was highly commended for her work at the New Zealand Community Safety and Injury Prevention Awards. ACC Minister Maryan Street, who attended the awards night, saluted the efforts of Kim and others like her. “This is the fourth year the awards have run. They recognise, highlight and congratulate the extraordinary work that’s going on around New Zealand to make our communities safer and better places to live, work and play.”



Northern Advocate, photo John Stone

The home report



Building houses is the first step towards building better communities. Right now there's plenty of action on the construction front.

Homes underway

There are five houses under construction right now: two in West Auckland, one in Putaruru, one in Tauranga, and another in Invercargill.



Homes soon to be started

All kinds of builds are due to begin around the country. A home is being built in Porirua in the lower North Island. In Hamilton, the Guys vs Girls build (see page 6) will result in two houses; community builds in Napier and Hamilton will produce another two homes; and the north will get five new houses – two in West Auckland, two in South Auckland and one in Northland.



Homes ready for dedication

When a build project is completed, it's time for the Dedication – a special ceremony that celebrates completion and acknowledges the contributions made by volunteers and sponsors. Most of all, the ceremony welcomes the new partner family into their new home; it's a new beginning that prepares the way for a better life. There were dedications in Tauranga and Nelson very recently and a Greater Auckland dedication will be held on October 5. Later this year, there will be dedications in Northland, Invercargill and Tauranga.

To find out about builds in your local community go to www.habitat.org.nz/build

Sponsorship

Sponsors nail it home

For Noel Leeming and AMP, supporting Habitat for Humanity is more than a financial commitment. It's a chance for staff to build team spirit and acquire some new skills, like how to drive a nail.

For Todd Donaldson, manager at Noel Leeming in Napier, a day spent working on a Habitat house in Maranui earlier this year turned out to be most memorable.

"There were eight of us, all complete lemons when it comes to building, and it was hosing with rain. Actually, the rain made it even more fun – would have been very hot work otherwise", said Todd.

Todd reported that team spirit remained high all day, in spite of the damp weather. "When we arrived there was only a concrete floor. By the end of the day, the complete frame was up. As the builders say, we nailed it home!"

Habitat for Humanity's partnership with the AMP foundation started in 2006. A total of nearly 200 AMP employees have already built two houses for Habitat partner families, and now there are a couple more on the horizon – one for Auckland and another for Wellington.

"AMP are very excited to confirm a grant for two 2008 house builds. We'll be matching this financial contribution with physical support – our staff can't wait to tie on their builders' aprons", said Jane Anderson, General Manager AMP Public Affairs.

Building of both these homes will commence in October.



What's going on in the Global Village?

Habitat for Humanity International's Global Village programme gives volunteers the chance to build a true "global village" of homes, families, communities, love and hope.

The programme involves short-term house-building trips to the Asia Pacific region, Europe & Central Asia, Africa & the Middle East, Latin America and the The Caribbean. Worldwide, nearly 40 countries host Global Village volunteer teams.

So far this year New Zealand has despatched teams to Vietnam, Fiji, Cambodia and the Philipines. We're also on the receiving end of Global Village generosity – USA teams are helping with houses in Putaruru, Auckland and Northland in the coming months.



Kyle Fowler has China on his mind

As an international flight attendant, Kyle Fowler gets plenty of travel opportunities. So when he signed up to lead a Global Village team to China, it wasn't because he was yearning for faraway, exotic places. "It's offering something of yourself to others," says Kyle. "I wanted to do something different. I'm grateful for what I have and the chance for my focus to be less about me."

Kyle's first taste of Global Village life happened last year, when he volunteered to build houses in Romania. He worked with a group of people aged from 16 to 60 and found the experience totally uplifting.

While Kyle does have some building skills, he stresses that it doesn't matter if people have no construction skills at all. "There's always something someone can contribute."



Photo: Central Leader

Marty van der Burg's passion for Ethiopia

A highly successful builder and a board member of Habitat's Greater Auckland operation, Marty first became aware of the desperate need for decent housing in Ethiopia when he befriended an Ethiopian family in Auckland. On a family trip to the country in 2006, he discovered that the cost of providing a Habitat house in an Ethiopian village was just \$2500 – less than some of his clients would spend on a kitchen tap. At the culmination of this trip, Marty resolved to not only help build houses in Ethiopia with Habitat, but to donate \$2500 to the cause every time he completed one of his own building projects in Auckland.

Marty is soon to lead his second Global Village team to Ethiopia. This time he'll have 24 people under his wing, including 11 from a Wellington

church group and a young man who'll be using the experience to work off some of his periodic detention sentence and get his life back on track.

"On my last trip, we worked in the village of Jimma. When we arrived, Habitat had about 30 houses on the go. By the time we left, 10 were ready for dedication. You go in to work beside the families, to shed tears and laughter, blood and sweat. It's great."

Marty's favourite quote, from Martin Luther King, Jr. sums up his reasons for getting involved with Habitat: "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."



Are you interested for 2009?

Next year there'll be Global Village teams leaving New Zealand for Ethiopia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal and Brazil. Volunteers fundraise or pay for their flights and living expenses, as well as a donation to Habitat. If you're interested in a world-expanding, life-changing experience, visit www.habitat.org.nz

Guys vs Gals: the Hamilton Blitz Build showdown



Guys vs. Gals



Every year Habitat CNI (Central North Island) holds an Awareness Week special event blitz build to draw attention to housing needs in the region and engage the community. This year's theme is 'Guys vs Gals'.



A friendly competition between the genders, the Guys vs Gals Blitz Build will see two houses completed in just five days. An all-female team will build one house; an all-male team will build the other. It's hoped the fund-raising efforts of each team will go a long way to cover the cost of building the houses.

The teams will compete on four criteria: Amount of money raised; quality of workmanship; health and safety; and the 'X factor' – a successful combination of being crazy, inspiring, humorous, and still safe!

Running from 3rd to 7th November at HFH CNI's new premises at 29 Bryant Road, Te Rapa, the houses will be

built under a canopy roof and will involve around 400 volunteers, each working a half-day shift.

Allie Stevens, who'll be driving nails for the women's effort, is looking forward to the event. "I've done Habitat builds before and it's just an awesome experience", she says. "It's an opportunity to work with the people that the house is going to, and it gives something back to the community."

Allie's family, friends and workmates at Pinnacle are supporting the build with both fundraising efforts and entering two teams of 10 volunteers total. "The women will win of course", says Allie, "We're so good at multi-tasking!"

If you'd like to help this worthy cause by donating money or volunteering, please donate through our website www.habitat.org.nz or volunteer by emailing Holly Silver at events@habitatcni.org.nz

Invercargill family thrives after Habitat hand up

Nearly 13 years ago, Invercargill couple Tania and James were in debt, scraping by on a benefit and living in a very crowded rented house with their five children. Today they have seven children, are living in their own home, and are enjoying life to the full.

Tania and James applied for a Habitat home back in 1995. At the time, Habitat had a policy of purchasing and renovating existing houses for the Invercargill area, because it was more economical than building from scratch. It took a while for the couple to find a suitable house, but by November 2000 they were comfortably ensconced in a Habitat home of their own.

From the moment they moved into the house, life began to fall into place. James got a full-time job, the children were happier in the uncrowded environment and there was even enough money to start a savings account.

By 2007, Tania and James were in a position to get a mortgage and repay Habitat the amount still owing on the house. What's more, they had achieved a lifelong

ambition of becoming business owners: their children's wear shop was a very successful venture.

Tania sums it up like this: "Thanks to Invercargill Habitat for Humanity, we now have the lifestyle that was once just a dream".



Photo: Andrew Bayne

HeeSuk Byun

Age 18

Heesuk was born in Daejeon, Korea. He moved to Auckland in 2002 and is currently studying at the Auckland International College. He started doing volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity two years ago and recently went on a Global Village trip to the Philippines.

Why did you become a Habitat volunteer?

Being able to actually participate in building houses was what appealed to me.

How are you involved with Habitat?

I am the founder of the AIC Campus Chapter. I found out that campus chapters are very popular in other parts of the world, especially America, so I wanted to initiate this worthy club in my school. Auckland International College puts a lot of emphasis on helping others and giving back to the community. Since AIC Campus Chapter was officially registered by HFH, I have been leading the club. We have been very involved with fundraising for HFH and participated in the Global Village programme in the Philippines in July.

During the GV trip to the Philippines, what surprised you the most and how were your preconceptions challenged?



Participating in the Global Village programme in the Philippines was an awesome and unique experience. I have realised how serious global poverty housing actually is. I have also realised how fortunate I am to be on the helping side.

When I first arrived in the Philippines, a nun (a board member of Habitat for Humanity Philippines) told me "You are not here to build houses, you are here to build home." At the beginning, I did not realise what this meant. However, when I was leaving the village and saw children of the village running after our jeepney and crying "Please remember us," I realised what building a home actually meant.

In my life, I have never seen anything like the extreme poverty I witnessed in the Philippines. Yet it was amazing to see how lively and cheerful the people in St Dominic Village (our working site) were, even without luxuries that I usually take for granted.

For the full profile, go online to www.habitat.org.nz

Photography competition celebrates World Habitat Day

To celebrate World Habitat Day, we collaborated with a group of AUT students to organise a photography competition around the theme 'A Place to Be'. Entries were required to emphasise the importance of feeling secure, safe and comfortable in your own home.

The competition was open to everyone and winners will be announced on World Habitat Day.

We had hundreds of entries and you can see some of the best by visiting www.habitat.org.nz/competition

The Presidential Building Campaign

Ian Hay, President of Habitat for Humanity in New Zealand, will be happily revisiting his carpentering skills at the beginning of next year to produce new homes with Bay of Plenty families.

The 'President's Build' encompasses two home building projects – one in Taneatua during February and another in Rotorua during March. Each build is expected to take about one week to complete.

"I'm a carpenter from way back." says Ian "I enjoy every part of building a house, but most of all I'm looking forward to working alongside the families and volunteers."

Ian is already lining up some of his friends with building skills to help with the projects. If you are interested in donating to or volunteering for the project, please visit our website or contact us 0800 4Habitat (0800 44 22 48).



ReStores are retail outlets that sell quality used goods at great prices. All the goods are donated and the money earned goes towards Habitat for Humanity's building programme.

There are five ReStores in New Zealand, selling everything from clothes and couches to appliances and bricks, and a sixth to open in Hastings later this year. There's also a virtual ReStore in the lower North Island, operating through Trademe.

One of our most successful stores is the Hamilton ReStore. Pete North, CEO of Habitat CNI, says business has been growing steadily since 1998. "We began in a small warehouse provided by our chairman John Gallagher, and we've moved three times since then.

On October 1st we'll be opening our newest premises in Bryant Road, Te Rapa – 2,500 square metres of great bargains."

The range of goods available at the Bryant Road store is impressive. Crockery, curtains, furniture, clothing, toys, sports equipment, computers, books, magazines and all sorts of building materials. And we're not talking junk here – donated goods must be resalable before Habitat will accept them.

So next time you're clearing out the garage or spare room, remember that ReStores can turn your unwanted stuff into much-needed houses. If the goods are too big for the boot of your car, call and request a pick-up. And if you're in the mood for bargain hunting, make a note that ReStores are open all week and Saturday morning.

Hamilton

29 Bryant Road
Te Rapa
Hamilton
Tel: 07 849 7707

Auckland

8 Ormiston Road
East Tamaki
Auckland
Tel: 09 271 3358

Rotorua

50 Edmund Road
Rotorua
Tel: 07 343 9273

Dunedin

Cnr Vogel & Gordon
Streets
Dunedin
Tel: 03 477 3500

Invercargill

33 Glengarry Cres
Invercargill
Tel: 03 217 2730

Get Involved with Habitat for Humanity?

1. Volunteer for a house build

Do you want to swing a hammer?

Habitat for Humanity relies heavily on volunteers to help us build homes. Whether you are a qualified tradesperson, a handy DIYer or an absolute beginner, we welcome your donation of time.

There are 12 Habitat for Humanity affiliates (branches) throughout New Zealand, from Northland to Invercargill. House builds take place throughout the year, depending on things like land availability and building consent.

2. Help us to raise funds

Are you a local leader who knows how to fundraise?

We encourage our supporters to come up with innovative and fun ways to raise money for Habitat for Humanity activities. If you would like to run an event or create personal challenges that will raise funds, please contact your local affiliate. Ideas range from running fashion parades and celebrity auctions to bake days and sporting challenges – whatever rings your bell!

3. Lend a hand at the office

Are you good at administration and organising?

Volunteers can help in a range of different ways, not just on the building site! We need people who can assist with fundraising, marketing and promotion, events management, general administration and all sorts of other tasks. If you have a skill and some spare time, come and join us – we'd love to see you.

4. Make a donation

Did you know that your gift of money will keep on giving?

As partner families repay their loans, those funds are made available to help house another family in need, creating a revolving fund for humanity. The more money we have to work with, the more we can achieve – there are so many families in need of a simple, decent place to live. Please donate today, or consider leaving a lasting gift through your will. You can donate online at www.habitat.org.nz/donate or by posting to FreePost 102447, Habitat for Humanity NZ, PO Box 74460, Auckland 1543.

If you are interested in helping us out, you can always visit the Get Involved section of our website, phone our head office on 0800 44 22 48 or contact your local affiliate