

Global Village Voice

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Help Me Hand Out Hope

Looking for a vacation that will not only keep you entertained 24/7 but will change your life forever? Choose Zambia! Spirits included but only the kind that will inspire, motivate and challenge you. This Global Village trip may prove to be the change or challenge that you're looking for. Its designed for all walks of life, requires no previous experience and includes three fun filled weeks full of excitement, blood, sweat and by the end, oh yes, tears. You will form life-long bonds and create memories that will consume you on a daily basis. Your mission, should you choose to join us, is not to build just a house but help a deserving family build a new, safe and sustainable home. Since one third of the population lives on less than \$1 a day, your kind heart and warm smile will restore hope that they are not forgotten and that regular people like you do care about making positive change. You will change their life and they will certainly change yours.

Here at Habitat we give a "Hand up" rather than a "Hand out" so we will work side by side with the host family and maybe a few close friends. We will learn a new trade or two and truly experience what it means to get our hands dirty. We will lead a primitive life, live off the bare essentials and overcome the elements. Just think of it as an extended family camping trip but we get to stay in a finished Habitat house...with strangers ... but we won't be strangers for long!

Before returning back to civilization we will spend a few days at play. We will travel great distances, see mystic and mesmerizing waterfalls, bathe in the Devil's Pool, barter with local vendors and sample true African cuisine in Livingstone. If that's not enough to lure you in, I promise lions, tigers and bears! Well, maybe not tigers and bears but most likely lions, elephants and giraffes! We'll cruise up the Zambezi and catch an African sunset before settling back into our bug nets and dream about our adventure and the trip home.

So if you're looking to live and experience a new culture, make someone laugh, smile and cry, this is the trip for you. If you're looking to meet the friendliest of people and "be the change you wish to see in the world." (Gandhi), then choose Zambia! A Global Village build is the best decision you'll ever make. Help me hand out hope.

Zambia – Aug. 13-30, 2011. Check it out!

Offered exclusively at <http://www.habitat.ca/tripschedulec235.php?PJID=263>

Article courtesy Michael Sauve

Toasting Romania



Cultural differences, of course, are one of the memorable features of travel – and especially so on GV trips when you are away from the usual tourist scene. In Moinesti, a town 5-7 hours (depending upon traffic) NW of Bucharest, we were staying in a comfortable pension. It was the larger of two such pensions in the community, its dining room and bar a popular venue for locals.

Romanians by nature know how to celebrate, generously extending their conviviality to foreigners as we experienced firsthand. Returning earlier than expected from our weekend R & R to Transylvania, we found the dining room at the pension pulsating with energy. It turned out that the local paramedic team was having a retirement party for one of their nurses and when they found out that one of our team members was a former nurse practitioner who liked to dance, well...!

It was typical of the gracious hospitality we experienced throughout our two-week build in this former Eastern Bloc country where 20 years later, many families are still living in cramped single-room apartments with shared washrooms. We visited one such apartment in a crumbling soviet-style four-storey building, the top two floors of which had been condemned. It made us better appreciate why our Habitat partner families were so thrilled to be moving into their own space, albeit small – living room/kitchen and three-piece bathroom on the ground floor and two bedrooms upstairs. It also gave us the impetus to work in often grueling temperatures (37 deg C), mixing and pouring cement and carting loads of heavy clay soil as we literally built the foundations for four homes for four families.

In the course of our time together, many bonds were formed with the ebullient, ever-cheerful site supervisor Croitoru Consatnatin and his crew, as language barriers were surmounted by smiles and gestures and confidence grew that we would exceed minimal expectations. Indeed it was the super who personally hung our Canadian flag on the framing that we installed with so much pride on our last day.

But always the greatest pleasure on any GV trip is to see the joy in partner families' faces as the homes of their dreams slowly but surely materialize and they know they face a more hopeful future. This was never more so than on this trip where 2 partner family couples, each with a young daughter, met for the first time at a BBQ hosted by the local Habitat affiliate. On our last night, at our farewell dinner, the 2 families sat side by side, chatting animatedly while the two little girls – future neighbors' – played happily together.

As Gabi Pascal, Executive Director, HFH Comanesti, says: "We're not just building homes, we're building lives."

Article & picture courtesy John Roe

Volunteer Spotlight—Barb Bjarneson



Habitat Global Village trips have given me insight into different cultures and made me aware of other people's history in a very personal way, much more than I could ever read in a book. Every day on the work site, I marvel at how well we execute our tasks; how we interact with each other with kindness, genuine interest and good-natured teasing; how we connect with the homeowners; and how we embrace every moment of our GV trip with grace, fun and a sense of adventure.

I have found that Habitat gives women — whether homeowners or team members — new strengths, confidence and peace. We may start out building a home, but we end up building people. Habitat allows me to express my love in a very constructive way. It allows me to share myself, using my hands and my heart to build a home for my neighbor — whether they live next door or across an ocean.

Article originally printed by HFHI in Habitat World, March 2011; Picture courtesy Barb Bjarneson

Building Together for a Brighter Future in Portugal

Housing is a major concern of poor Portuguese families, with 65 percent of them living in dilapidated housing and 8.5 percent in shacks. Poverty housing in Portugal is spread throughout the country, with two distinctive kinds of housing, typified in the interior by houses with a small orchard that hides substandard housing conditions and in the big cities by shacks.

Since the 1970s, Portugal has been the destination for immigrants from former Portuguese colonies and Brazil and, more recently, for immigrants from former Soviet Union countries. The need for housing is growing, especially in the urban areas of the country.

Join a Global Village team and you can make a difference in the lives of Portuguese families in need of a simple, decent place to live. You may just find your own life changed as well.

Become a Friend of Global Village

In 2009, Habitat Canada's Global Village program sent almost 1,400 participants to build over 100 houses and donated \$625,000 to Habitat's international mission. The **Friends of Global Village** is a special group of donors who invest in the Global Village program to ensure that we can provide even more volunteer teams and financial support to our host country partners on an ongoing basis.

Here is how you can become a Friend of Global Village:

1. Champion the Cause and Help Raise Funds for Global Village:

As a GV participant, you may have conducted your own fundraising campaign to raise donations for your trip. To become a **Friend of Global Village**, as an individual or in conjunction with other members of your GV team, organize a fundraising campaign or hold an event within your network of friends, family and co-workers. <http://habitat.ca/friendsaskingfriendsp2967.php>

2. Give What You Can to Help:

Any donation is helpful. If all of us give, even a small amount, it will add up quickly. **Friends of Global Village** can make individual donations to help support the program **by clicking on the following link.** <http://www.canadahelps.org/GivingPages/GivingPage.aspx?gpID=4653>

3. Become a monthly supporter of the Global Village Program:

Even a small monthly donation will provide Global Village with the resources it needs to reach event more families around the world. Click on the following link and select the monthly giving option.

Click the following link <http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s19963> and select the "Donate Monthly" option. Your donation will automatically be charged to your credit card each month and you can cancel your donation at any time by calling our office at 1-800-267-5137 ext 257.

4. Ask Your Company or Organization to Help:

You may work for a company or organization that makes donations to organizations who encourage volunteerism, or names a charity of choice for their annual fundraising events. Please approach your company to become a **Friend of Global Village**. Contact Lisa Lalande, National Director, Corporate Partnerships, at llalande@habitat.ca for more information.

As a **Friend of Global Village**, if you donate or raise more than \$1,000, you will be recognized on our website, in our newsletter and, if you like, receive a mounted GV photograph for your home or office.

Since the Canadian Global Village program started in the spring of 2005, over 4,000 volunteers have answered the call to action in more than 30 countries around the world and supported these countries with over 2 million dollars in donations. This incredible response has meant more hands, more resources and more families placed in safe, decent, affordable homes around the world. You, our volunteers, have been a critical part of making this happen and you should be very proud of what you have accomplished. Thank you!

In Partnership,
The Global Village Team

Friends of Global Village

Habitat for Humanity Canada's Global Village would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of our program. Because of you, Canadians are able to make simple, decent affordable housing available around the world.



Think Global, Act Local

Habitat for Humanity is planning its biggest year yet in Canada and we need your help to make it happen.

To find the Habitat office nearest you go to www.habitat.ca and click on **Find your local affiliate**, at the top of the page.





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Habitat for Humanity Canada is a national non-profit, faith-based organization made up of 70 affiliates and over 30,000 volunteers who are mobilizing communities, to build safe, decent and affordable housing in partnership with those in need.

The organization was founded in 1985 and is a member of Habitat for Humanity International, which spans 100 countries, has built over 200,000 homes, and is now building a new home every 24 minutes.

We are on the web:
www.habitatglobalvillage.ca

Featured Trips

There are still opportunities available to get involved in trips departing during the summer and fall of 2011.

Macedonia

Jul. 02 – Jul. 16, 2011

Mexico

Jun. 04 – Jun. 13, 2011

Hawaii

Jul. 30 – Aug. 06, 2011

Thailand

Jul. 30 – Aug. 08, 2011

Mongolia

Jul. 30 – Aug. 13, 2011

Guatemala

Jun. 04 – Jun. 14, 2011

Honduras

Jul. 23 – Aug. 05, 2011

Chile

Aug. 07 – Aug. 20, 2011

Poland

Aug. 15 – Aug. 29, 2011

Zambia

Aug. 13 – Aug. 30, 2011

For more information about any of these trips, please visit our Trip Schedule at <http://www.habitat.ca/tripschedulec235.php>.