

Global Village Voice

Happy Thanksgiving!

With the Thanksgiving season upon us, and right around the corner for our American friends, it is a time of thought and reflection for many. With our busy daily routines, it can be easy to get caught up in the day-to-day rush and forget to take a step back and appreciate all that we are so fortunate for! We hope that this issue of the *Global Village Voice* will be a small inspiration to do just that – take a short time out and consider showing your thanks by getting involved with Habitat for Humanity Global Village.

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Photo courtesy Joan Spares (Vietnam)

I'm grateful for the love they have shown me. I thank Vietnam for every moment.

*– Simone Hummel
(Global Village Volunteer,
Vietnam 2011)*

Gaining Perspective 4000KMs from Home

Just ask any Global Village volunteer and they will tell you that sometimes it is easier to learn about appreciating life and love in a place you have never been, with people you have never met.

Participants always come away with multitudes of memories and stories, but there are often a few defining moments that are particularly stirring or inspiring. For our team on a recent

build in El Salvador, such a moment came during a casual conversation that took place late one evening between the team and our designated translator, Ronald.

We had been asking him questions about the El Salvadoran culture and way of life, trying to gain a fuller understanding of our newfound friends and coworkers. Sensing some hesitancy or confusion, Ronald asked us a



Photo courtesy
Tanya McMurdo
(El Salvador)

Ctd. question: “When was the last time you stopped and *really* took a look up at the sky?” When he got no response, Ronald continued, “You know, I was working with a Habitat group a while ago and at one point, I noticed the family and masons all stop what they were doing and look up. I asked them what they were doing and they responded ‘Don’t you see the plane flying over? Isn’t it so amazing that all of that metal can stay up in the air? What wouldn’t you give to have the chance to fly?’ Yet you and I have complained when our flight is delayed or the airplane food is bad! When it is time for you to go home, look at some of the passengers around you who might

be flying for the first time. Watch their faces as they look out the windows at the sky and clouds!”

Having been in El Salvador a few days already, we all had some understanding of just how fortunate we were, but this was a welcome reminder to be thankful for our experiences and appreciate the ‘small things’ that could easily be taken for granted. I think a few of us wiped some tears from our eyes that night and sure enough, the next day on our build site when a plane flew overhead, we all squinted into the sun.

*Article courtesy of contributions from
Global Village El Salvador September
2011 Volunteers*

It touched my heart to hear how important our work is to everyone here. It wasn’t a difficult decision for me to spend 10 days on this journey, but it is changing my life significantly.

– Karen Ngo (Global Village Volunteer, Vietnam 2011)

Join us on an Upcoming Trip



For a complete list, or more information, please visit our [Trip Schedule](#).

You can Fundraise!

The Habitat for Humanity vision is a world where everyone has a safe, decent, affordable place to live. By taking part in a Global Village team build, you will be helping to make a difference for a family in need.

The challenge of a Global Village build comes in two parts. You will give your time and labour and your trip cost includes a donation which helps to build homes in your host country. Many participants on GV teams fundraise for their trip. We encourage fundraising as it involves others and spreads the message of Habitat for Humanity's work throughout many communities and generates more interest in building houses, communities and hope.

To assist our participants with their fundraising efforts, we have created some fundraising materials which your team leader will send to you once you have joined a team. Charitable donation tax receipts will be issued for donations. If you would like to donate to a Global Village participant or team, please [click here](#).

Choosing your GV Experience

- Look for dates and seasons that suit your travel preferences; in addition take into account trip length. Global Village builds vary in length and occur throughout the entire year.
- Consider which region you would like to visit. Global Village teams go to Latin America & the Caribbean, South America, Africa, Asia and more!
- Contact the team leader by e-mail and ask questions! Find out if your objectives are similar.
- Be aware that as with any travel, a Global Village build will impact you! [Read more](#) (Article courtesy *The Globe and Mail*, originally printed September 2011).



Photo courtesy
Kim MacDonald
(Zambia)

Think Global, Act Local

Habitat for Humanity is planning its biggest year yet in Canada and we need your help!

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.

Questions or comments? We'd love to hear from you!

E-mail: globalvillage@habitat.ca

