



# Habitat World

## WHY

December 2012



# BUILD



HOMES, COMMUNITIES, HOPE. WHAT WILL YOU BUILD?

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- » The winner of the 2012 *Habitat World* photo contest
- » Habitat celebrates 25 years of youth engagement

# Foundations

From Habitat CEO Jonathan Reckford

## Opportunities to Change Lives

I had been thinking big. Earlier this year, I traveled to Cambodia with my son and 10 others to help two wonderful families build their homes. That trip came just days after Habitat for Humanity's board of directors approved the goals and objectives for our new strategic plan.

For months, we had talked about how we could scale up our work and increase our impact around the world. We talked about how the problem of inadequate shelter continues to grow and how we need to do more. I was very excited about the strategies we developed to effect transformative changes, and I was thinking a lot about the magnitude of work that lay before us.

Then I spent a morning working in the blazing sun in the village of Trapaing Anhchanh. I laid bricks next to Meng Nat, who supports her family despite living with HIV. She is often very sick, and her husband suffers from mental illness. They had to sell their previous home to be able to afford their medications.

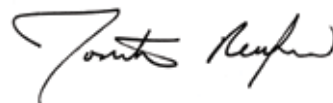
Until their Habitat home was complete, they rented a 2-by-2-meter house, made of scrap materials and constructed atop polluted, stagnant water. Meng Nat told

me that until that day she "never dared to dream of having her own home, but now it seems real." I looked at the smile on her face and was reminded so clearly that this is why we build. The amazing dedication ceremony, complete with our releasing birds to represent new hope, culminated a terrific afternoon that made me want to work for Habitat forever!

Some of my favorite memories from Cambodia are the moments I spent playing with Meng Nat's young daughter. I kept thinking how different her life is going to be now that she has a decent place to call home. I was grateful to be reminded in such a personal way that the ministry of Habitat is about helping real people who are struggling just to survive each day. God calls each of us to care for our neighbors in need and has blessed us with opportunities that can change lives.

Sometimes we can get caught up in the world of thinking big — the millions of families around the world who live in poverty and the massive resources and commitment that will be required to impact that great need. But looking into the eyes of a young child in El Salvador who dreams of being a lawyer, hearing a matriarch in the U.S. tell how wonderful it is to feel safe sitting on the porch again and smiling with Meng Nat — these are the reasons why we build.

Imagine with me a world where everyone has a decent place to live — and join us as we build homes, communities and hope. ♣



JONATHAN T.M. RECKFORD  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL



Meng Nat

CHEN COOLIRA

## Habitat World

The Publication of Habitat for Humanity International

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### MISSION VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

### WHAT WE DO

Habitat for Humanity organizations build, renovate and repair houses in partnership with people in need of adequate housing. Homeowners are selected locally by Habitat organizations based on their need for housing, ability to repay a no-profit loan and willingness to partner with Habitat. Loan repayments contribute to help build and repair additional houses. Because Habitat's loans are no-profit, they are affordable for low-income partners.

### WHO WE ARE

*Habitat World* is the educational, informational and outreach publication of Habitat for Humanity International. The magazine is free to anyone who wishes to receive it.

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Your content guide to Habitat World



Habitat World is pleased to share the winner and finalists of this year's photo contest in this special issue. Our recognized photographs appear throughout this issue. They help us tell the story of why we build, and we congratulate them.

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Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

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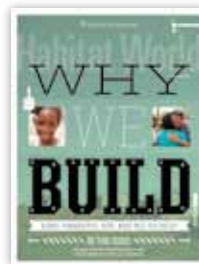
Habitat has a vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

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Helping Habitat is easy! Find out how you can get more involved.



### ON THE COVER

Habitat stories don't end when our partner families move in. Arguably, that's when they begin. This special issue highlights some of the many reasons why we build homes, communities and hope.

### IN EVERY ISSUE

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NEW YORK

[CARTER WORK PROJECT]

## CELEBRATING SERVANT LEADERSHIP

On Nov. 23, Habitat's annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project returns to Haiti as part of its two-year effort to strengthen and support Habitat's work there.

Every Carter Work Project is a special occasion, but in 2013, the project will mark the 30th year that the Carters have so generously given their time and talents to help build with families in need of decent housing. The project will be based in the U.S., and we'll be inviting Habitat organizations all around the country and the world to help mark such a wonderful anniversary.

In that spirit, *Habitat World* invites all those whose lives have been touched by the Carters' involvement to share with us your memories, photos and appreciations. Email us at [habitatworld@habitat.org](mailto:habitatworld@habitat.org) or reach out to us on Twitter at @HWEditor. We'd love to hear your stories — and share them in a future issue.

**Keep an eye on [habitat.org/cwp](http://habitat.org/cwp) for Carter Work Project news and updates, this year and beyond.**

HAITI



## HUNGARY



## SOUTH KOREA



## SOUTH AFRICA



## PHILIPPINES



Photo contest finalist and Bristow, Virginia, resident George E. Stanton II captured this photograph of the Santo build site during the 2011 Carter Work Project.

# World View

● International news



## Learn and Build engages teens

**1** [ UNITED STATES ] This summer, 80 teens volunteered with Habitat through Youth Programs' Learn and Build Experience. The immersion program includes 50 hours of building plus 30 hours of education on poverty housing and Habitat. Participants work alongside partner families and volunteers, laying groundwork for a lifetime of service. Trips this year included 10-day trips to locations in Michigan, West Virginia and South Carolina, as well as two 14-day builds in Romania. Twenty-six alumni also returned to Habitat's birthplace in Americus, Georgia, for two weeks.

Eighteen-year-old Katie Burke of Kenosha, Wisconsin, participated in the South Carolina build. She says LBE "is a good way for kids to get involved. The passion, desire and drive for programs like this start early. Teenagers are very malleable, and if you start them early, they're going to be more active in their causes, especially if

it comes from a personal experience."

Learn and Build Experience applications for summer 2013 will open in February. Find out more at [habitat.org/youthprograms](http://habitat.org/youthprograms).

**2** [ GREAT BRITAIN ] Habitat has been awarded a Department of Communities and Local Government grant to provide 35 affordable homes in London and Banbury over the next three years.

Established in 1996, the London-based Habitat builds and refurbishes properties with local volunteers and corporate partners while providing opportunities for construction trainees. "The refurbishment of empty property allows all concerned to achieve a positive outcome," says Gareth Hepworth, Habitat Southwark CEO. "Families get the housing they desperately need, an eyesore in the community is brought back to life, and society uses its scarce housing resources to the full."



MORGAN LIEBERMAN

**Volunteer Katie Burke paints a door during a Learn and Build Experience in Georgetown, South Carolina.**

Habitat also is renovating empty homes in partnership with the South West London and City YMCAs, creating move-on residences for those ready for independent living.

**3 [ COLOMBIA ]** Hundreds of Colombian families displaced by ongoing conflict live in overcrowded conditions, waiting for a chance to return home.

Ibeth, her husband and their two boys first fled their home in 2002. After years of waiting for a government housing subsidy to come through, Ibeth learned about a Habitat Colombia program that helps families displaced or threatened by violence. “I felt such tremendous emotion to see my house completed. I never imagined that I would live in a place like this,” she says.

Through the program, a total of 34 families have been able to build new, safe homes in a community they call “A New Awakening” because of the fresh start it represents.

**4 [ ASIA-PACIFIC ]** Three South Asia “Big Builds” result in more than 500 international volunteers to work with Habitat in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The Friendship Build, to be held in the Srimangal subdistrict of Bangladesh in December, will construct 20 new homes, a rainwater catchment system, a multipurpose community center and community tube wells. The project also involves developing roads and drainage systems.

In October, more than 300 volunteers worked at Everest Build II in Nepal, building brick houses with families like Arnakumari Basnet’s. A wall of Basnet’s house collapsed after a 2011 earthquake. With no money for repair, she propped up the roof with timber and stacked bricks to build a temporary wall. “I could not sleep at night when it rained because I was afraid that the house would collapse and kill my family,” she says. Now she has a new house with roof rafters and walls strengthened by bamboo.



## Windows on the Work

### [ PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA ]

#### Racing to raise

This past summer, kids ran, biked and swam to raise money for Habitat Greater Pittsburgh as part of the annual Kids Triathlon. In July, children ages 7 through 12 raced in South Park, while August’s North Park event added a Youth Race for 13- to 15-year-olds. Since it began in 2001, the Kids Triathlon has generated more than \$700,000 for the affiliate.

### [ PARK CITY, UTAH ]

#### Building the grade

For construction students at Salt Lake Community College, building a house with Habitat Summit and Wasatch Counties was part of the curriculum last year. Three different classes worked alongside faculty and staff from SLCC to build the house, which was dedicated this summer. Rick Bouillon, dean of the School of Technical Specialties, says this was different from previous projects: “It was a building job with a purpose — that really meant more to the students, faculty and the institution. And any time we can give back, it means a lot.”

# World View

Find Habitat World online at  
**MAGAZINE.HABITAT.ORG**

Read weekly updates at  
**HABITAT.ORG/BLOG**

## International news



**Habitat Cote d'Ivoire has rehabilitated seven water pumps in four villages in the N'zi Comoë region. Each pump provides an estimated 392 families with safe, potable water.**

building 12 new homes with families on the waiting list. Volunteers from 10 countries — including nearly 100 visiting volunteers from Whirlpool Europe, Middle East and Africa and a team of 20 international employees from Credit Suisse — worked on the construction of the three housing blocks that will be soon be home to four families. Members of all 12 families who will eventually move into the new houses worked with the teams from both companies.

**“I felt such tremendous emotion to see my house completed. I never imagined that I would live in a place like this.”**

— Habitat homeowner **Ibeth**

And in Negombo, Sri Lanka, this past August, volunteers and families used soil blocks to build 24 new homes during the weeklong Rebuild Sri Lanka event. The project also included the installation of solar cookers, home gardens and biogas digesters, which turn organic waste into low-cost fuel.

**5 [ ROMANIA ]** In the industrial town of Ploesti, more than 240 families are on the waiting list for government housing, which is mostly dormitory-style with shared bathrooms and kitchens. There are, however, only 230 government units, and all of those are currently occupied.

In April 2012, Habitat Romania began

**6 [ COTE D'IVOIRE ]** Cote d'Ivoire was once one of the most prosperous states in West Africa, but political unrest has forced many people out of their homes and into abject poverty. More than half of rural households have no access to safe drinking water. Poor living conditions contribute to chronic and life-threatening diseases such as cholera, ulcers, diarrhea and malaria, which is estimated to cause the deaths of 63,000 children under the age of 5 every year.

Habitat Cote d'Ivoire has implemented the Water, Sanitation and Health project in partnership with Habitat Germany and with financial support from the Global Nature Fund. Thus far, seven pumps in four villages

## WHERE WE WORK

Habitat for Humanity started in the United States in 1976, and today its work reaches around the world. Currently, Habitat is at work in all 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Territory of Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other countries around the globe, including: Argentina | Armenia | Australia | Bangladesh | Bermuda | Bolivia | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Brazil | Bulgaria | Cambodia | Canada | Chile | China | Colombia | Costa Rica | Cote d'Ivoire | Dominican Republic | Egypt | El Salvador | Ethiopia | Fiji | France | Germany | Ghana | Great Britain | Guatemala | Guyana | Haiti | Honduras | Hungary | India | Indonesia | Jamaica | Japan | Jordan | Kenya | Kyrgyzstan | Laos | Lebanon | Lesotho | Macedonia | Madagascar | Malawi | Malaysia | Mexico | Mongolia | Mozambique | Myanmar | Nepal | Netherlands | New Zealand | Nicaragua | Northern Ireland | Paraguay | Philippines | Poland | Portugal | Republic of Ireland | Romania | Russia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | South Korea | Sri Lanka | Tajikistan | Tanzania | Thailand | Timor-Leste | Trinidad and Tobago | Turkey | Uganda | Ukraine | Vietnam | Zambia



in the N'zi Comoe region have been rehabilitated, and water committees have been formed to maintain the pumps. Each pump serves an estimated 392 families, providing them with safe, potable water. Thirty-five houses also have been renovated.

The Global Nature Fund has committed 10,000 euros annually to the project for three years, starting in 2013.

**7 [ CAMBODIA ]** Through a pilot land advocacy project implemented by Habitat Cambodia, more than 250 families in the northwest Battambang province will have secure land tenure.

Under the project, the Cambodian government has provided land in three different villages for a total of 256 plots on which families can build their own permanent homes. Habitat Cambodia also will build three community centers, roads and drainage systems in the area.

Has Phina lives in Okcheay village. "I am now able to really build a decent house for my family on my own private and legal land plot," Phina says. "Through this project, our community was also provided with good infrastructure. We feel safer from natural disasters, especially floods, and we can easily access work."

The project, Habitat Cambodia's first urban land tenure advocacy initiative, began in 2008 with support from the World Bank. Funding from the Japan Social Development Platform enabled Habitat to consult communities in Battambang, iden-

tify available land and design the project together with the local and central government officials.

**8 [ NICARAGUA ]** Thanks to a recent partnership between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Habitat for Humanity Latin America and the Caribbean, a regionwide workshop in the IFRC's Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness was held in Nicaragua.

The goal of PASSA is to develop capacities that already exist in communities by getting the residents involved. The workshop helps identify the risks that exist in neighborhoods, particularly pertaining to housing, and helps create a plan of action for reducing vulnerability to natural disasters.

This was the first time that the training was offered in Spanish, and the second time it has been done in Latin America. Participants included representatives from Habitat programs in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica.

The PASSA workshop has already been replicated in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. The events have helped Habitat develop, with the help of local communities, the framework for appropriate disaster mitigation projects in these countries. Many of these projects currently seek funding. ▲



### [ BERE A, KENTUCKY ]

#### Active savings

Kentucky now has its first passive Habitat house, built by Habitat Madison and Clark Counties. Constructed to meet efficiency guidelines of the Passive House Institute, the house will use about 70 percent less energy than a traditional house, with fewer emissions of greenhouse gases. For new owners the Hoover family, this means much lower energy bills.

### [ YEA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA ]

#### Rising from ashes

On Feb. 7, 2009, bushfires destroyed more than 2,000 homes in southern Victoria. This year, Habitat Victoria broke ground in Yea Heights Estate, a neighborhood for those who were affected by the fires and want to stay in the area. At least five families have already moved into their new homes. The affiliate plans to build 25 houses in the neighborhood within the next two years.

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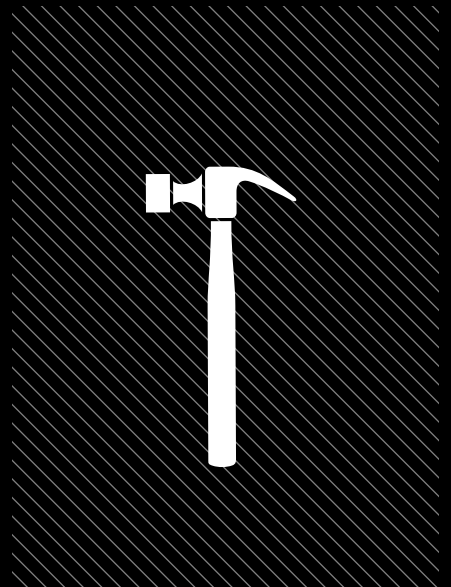
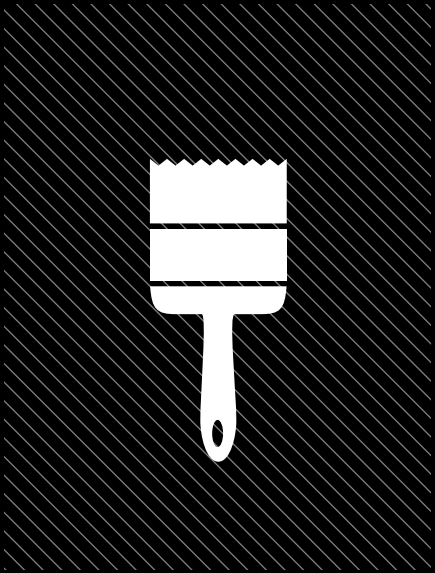
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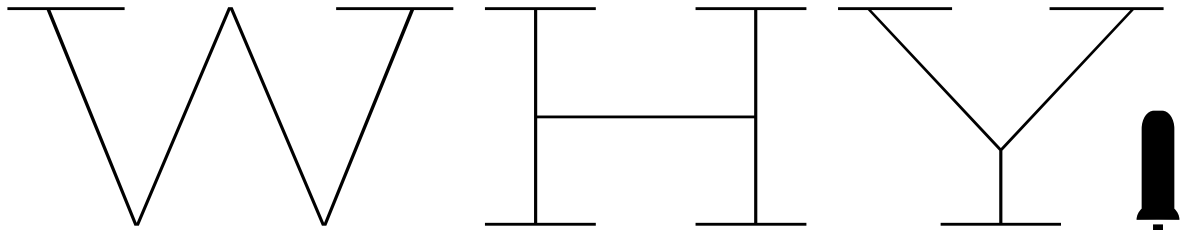
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FOR HABITAT, "WHY" ISN'T A QUESTION.

It's the answer. It's *why* we build.

We build so children can have healthy, safe homes where they can learn and grow to their full potential. We build to break down barriers and establish vibrant neighborhoods. We build to open doors to new opportunities. We build for the promise of a new start and a better life. Habitat houses provide stability for families searching for a way to help themselves and their neighbors.

We build because Habitat stories don't end when our partner families become homeowners. Arguably, that's where they begin. The stories that follow offer a glimpse of Habitat's impact around the world. For every family we build alongside, the experience is life-changing. Taken together, it's easy to see the emerging outline of what a world where everyone has a decent place to live might be like. We'll only get there together.





## EVERY 7 MINUTES

around the world, Habitat for Humanity serves a family in need of decent housing. Affordable housing solutions might differ from place to place, but to the families who dream of them, help build them and eventually inhabit them, they all add up to "home."

## HEAR

a song that celebrates how "The World Spins Right" when we build together. Visit [magazine.habitat.org](http://magazine.habitat.org).





# WHY WE BUILD: HOMES

## WE BUILD WITH FAMILIES.



### THE JOY IN TRISHA CRANDALL'S VOICE IS UNMISTAKABLE.

Nearly 70, Trisha has lived in an apartment for 18 years. She's long worked two jobs and has been never sure she'd be able to own her own home. Today, just moments ago, she's learned that the final inspection of her Habitat home is imminent. She and her son Kameron will soon be able to move in.

"The whole experience has been just a journey," she says. "There's no words to describe it." But describe it she did, when Hardin County Habitat in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, invited her to speak at the affiliate's annual volunteer appreciation dinner.

What she shared speaks volumes about why we build.



COURTESY HARDIN COUNTY HABITAT

During her March 2012 groundbreaking ceremony, Trisha Crandall looks out on the spot where her Habitat house now stands.

### /// WHAT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MEANS TO ME

**H** **HAPPY** to be in a home and **Honored** to be part of such a Christian organization

**A** **AMAZING** what gets done in such a short time by volunteers

**B** **BLESSINGS** — too many to mention

**I** **IDEAL** house for us

**T** **TRAINING** Maintenance Class: learning to take care of your appliances, home and yard  
Budget Class: great to be learning about financial freedom

**A** **ANXIOUS** to see if you qualify

**T** **THANKFUL** we have been given such an opportunity

**F** **FAITH** people have that you can do it even when you don't think you can

**O** **OTHERS** thinking about Others and their needs

**R** **RELATIONSHIPS** built by working with individuals, youth groups, Collegiate Challenge groups and church groups. They came and freely gave their time and talent. I will remember them forever.

**H** **HOPE** for a better life. Humble: This has truly been a humbling experience

**U** **USEFUL** things learned

**M** **MATCHLESS**, nothing like it

**A** **ABUNDANT** energy

**N** **NICE** people we have met and the Nice neighborhood this will become

**I** **IMPORTANT** that we continue this program

**T** **TRUST** that with God, nothing is impossible

**Y** **YES**, we are ready to move in



## WE BUILD WITH FAITH.



COURTESY IOWA VALLEY HABITAT (2)

IOWA VALLEY Habitat for Humanity is a testament to what faith and hard work can accomplish. In 1992, the affiliate was little more than an idea.

“We began the organization with high hopes and not much money,” says cofounder Jerry Zinn. The fundraising process was a challenge in a community mostly unfamiliar with Habitat’s principles and practices. Board members made countless presentations to community organizations to spread the word about Habitat and how the process would work. Despite an initial lack of funds, they pressed on undaunted. That tenacity and faith paid off as they handed over the keys to their first completed home just two years later.

In the beginning, even cofounder Steve Ballard had doubts. “My all-time favorite Habitat story involves the announcement of our very first Habitat family, the O’Learys,”

he says. “I was about 27 and new to the community, sitting on the board with a bunch of folks who knew more about the community and more about life than I did. But I could not stop myself from raising my hand and saying something to the effect of ‘It’s nice that we’ve done all of this work and selected a family to partner with and build our first house, but if you look at the treasurer’s report, we have no money.’

“Rich Hoefler, a man of significant religious commitment, said very firmly, but politely, ‘Steve, you just have to have faith.’

“Of course, Rich was right, we raised the money, found the supplies, partnered with the O’Leary family, and the rest is history.”

Earlier this year, Iowa Valley Habitat celebrated its 20th anniversary and the construction of its 75th house. The affiliate has expanded to include repair and winterization of existing houses and operates a ReStore in Iowa City.

## WE BUILD WITH YOUR HELP.

PHOTO CONTEST FINALIST MERRILL PETERSON has participated on several Habitat Global Village trips since 2006. The Carlsbad, California, resident captured this photo of a mason hard at work alongside her on a Habitat build in Sri Lanka.

Building in communities around the world since the mission began in 1976, Habitat has served more than 500,000 families. With an average family size of five, that’s more than 2.5 million people living in safe, decent, affordable houses. Our volunteers, advocates and donors make all the difference. With your help, we can do more.

HUNDREDS OF LIVES have been improved because a group of **PEOPLE** ONCE COMMITTED TO DOING THE WORK, even if they weren’t too sure they could.

## WE BUILD BACK NEIGHBORHOODS.

Habitat plays a large role in the restoration of a historic five blocks in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



### SEEDS OF COMMUNITY

As Habitat began working on Donald Place, an idea began to grow. The affiliate bought the empty lot next door and began the process of turning it into a community garden complete with a master gardener and input from neighbors.

“Habitat is not just building houses, they are building positive relations with individuals in this community,” says homeowner David Atem. “The garden has brought us even closer.”

### THE DONALD PLACE HOUSE

Habitat’s first Wealthy Heights home, a total gut rehab. Story on page 18.

### SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

One of the houses on Freyling Street is the affiliate’s 300th home — and its first designed to produce a net energy usage of zero, with a utility bill to match.

Faculty and students from Ferris State University’s Energy Center are involved in every stage of the work in Wealthy Heights, helping with plans for new construction and rehabs. Once the homes have been built or rehabilitated, students analyze the energy performance of the houses, identifying areas to improve. The data they collect will be shared

with the U.S. Department of Energy’s Build America Program, which identifies best practices for using energy-efficient technologies in new and existing homes.

Wealthy Heights research projects already are lined up for houses that have yet to begin construction. One of those will be the 100th LEED certified house Habitat Kent has built. “Having our 100th LEED home in Wealthy Heights is cool,” says Hall. “The neighborhood started with a greenhouse, and now 140 years later, we’re building our 100th green house there.”







**T**HE WEALTHY HEIGHTS Partnership Project is quite unlike anything Michigan's Habitat for Humanity of Kent County has ever done. The tiny neighborhood-within-a-neighborhood had been mostly abandoned for decades, but in 2009, the five-block area turned out to be in the right place at the right time.

Habitat Kent and the city of Grand Rapids were making plans to collaborate on rehab and renovation projects via the Neighborhood Stabilization Project. Around the same time, a nonprofit housing manager

asked Habitat for help with some houses in Wealthy Heights, which happened to be in the heart of the NSP target zone.

The area presented challenges — narrow, dead end streets with little to no access for city services, a historic status governing all rehabs and new construction — but the affiliate was determined. “A lot of good work was happening,” says Chris Hall, Habitat Kent’s director of strategic initiatives. “We saw that if Habitat didn’t take it on, the homes would fall down on themselves, and the neighborhood would be hurt. If not us, who? If not now, when?”

The overall project includes road and

sewer improvements, some new construction, and the rehabilitation, repair and weatherization of existing homes to make them energy efficient. The list of partners in the project has grown to a dozen. After so many years of falling apart, Wealthy Heights is finally coming back together.

“It’s amazing. Some of our homebuyers choosing a home, they love this neighborhood. They want it!” says Habitat Kent’s director of construction operations Connie O’Toole. “It makes you feel good when they actually want to be there, and it means something to them.” —*Megan Frank*



IMAGES COURTESY HABITAT KENT COUNTY

### HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

In the late 1800s, the area in southeast Grand Rapids now known as the Wealthy Theatre District was beginning to grow. The first integrated neighborhood in the city, it was a thriving home for the working class. Many residents worked at the Freyling and Mendels Nursery on Wealthy Street, building simple houses on the five residential streets adjacent to the greenhouse. Things began to go downhill shortly after World War II, and by the late 1970s, the area was mostly abandoned as families fled to suburbia. Houses sat empty. Very few businesses remained. Drugs and crime moved in.

Former site of Freyling & Mendels Nursery



### A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Wealthy Heights has become an integral part of the education of hundreds of Grand Rapids students. Habitat Kent has a history of working with local youth through its programs. A partnership with Ferris State University’s Energy Center has meant innovation, improvement and lower costs in Habitat’s sustainable building techniques.

“For the Energy Center, it’s pretty much having a living laboratory available of all sorts of homes,” says director Arnold McIntyre. “For Habitat, it’s a depth of resource that they typically wouldn’t have. It’s really a win-win.”

LEARN MORE

about Wealthy Heights, visit [habitatkent.org/BuildingGreen.aspx](http://habitatkent.org/BuildingGreen.aspx).





## A HOUSE, A HOME

The little house on Donald Place exemplifies Habitat Kent County's work in Wealthy Heights.



COURTESY HABITAT KENT COUNTY (4)

**WHEN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY KENT COUNTY** came into its life, the little two-story house was a sad thing in need of rescue. It sat abandoned, uncared for and slowly crumbling for 30-plus years. The only people it hosted were those who broke in seeking shelter from the cold. Still, the 120-year-old home stood, valiantly holding itself together and waiting. In 2010, the wait paid off.

The house on Donald Place has the privilege of being the first home Habitat Kent rehabbed in Wealthy Heights. All aspects of the house's makeover were planned and discussed with the city, the Historical Preservation Commission and the State Historical Preservation Office

before anyone picked up a hammer. Every detail had to be approved, down to where vents could be placed and what color paint could be used.

Because the house had fire damage, the Historical Preservation Com-

mission allowed the wood siding to be removed. However, it could not be replaced with Habitat's preferred vinyl siding, which didn't meet the commission's standards. Not wanting to saddle new homeowners with the regular maintenance required by wood siding, Habitat created a new exterior of fiber cement siding. Now, the house appears to be wearing wood, but it's much better protected against the sometimes harsh weather conditions of western Michigan. Also protected is the back porch, which previously lacked a covering. Volunteers built one to match the gable of the existing roof, a charming addition that looks as though it's always been there.

Stepping inside the house, you may notice unusually deep window sills and doorframes, the result of a creative and industrious work-around by a Habitat affiliate determined to properly seal and insulate the house. The affiliate's preferred foam insulation could not be sprayed inside the walls, as it would stick to the original historic framework. So the house got a new interior wall all the way around that could be sprayed with the insulation required for maximum energy efficiency.

The house's windows are long and narrow, especially in one of the former upstairs bedrooms. This doesn't comply with modern building codes, which require bedrooms to have a window large enough for access

by emergency personnel. Since preservation guidelines prohibit changes to windows and doors, the master bedroom is now on the first floor and upstairs has office space.

The house is so much happier these days. Certified LEED Gold, it is warm in the Michigan winters and cool in the summer. Its bravery — and success — in being Habitat Kent's first drastic rehab no doubt provides hope and reassurance for the many other houses still awaiting rescue. It's a lovely home, with cheerful colors and sturdy walls to welcome Habitat homeowners David Atem, his wife Truphosah and their children, Alakiir, Joseph and Naima. For David, who fled Sudan in 1991 and lived as a refugee in Uganda and Kenya before coming to the United States in 2000, it's a chance to give his kids the safe childhood he never had.

They are as happy to have Donald Place as it is to have them. "There are a lot of things that we can do now as family," David says. "Simply, we can now sit around the dinner table as one family, pray together and eat together."

A vital part of the renewed neighborhood, the house provides water to the community garden now thriving next door. Upstairs, the office overlooks that garden, and in the afternoon, the sun comes in through a long, narrow window.

—Megan Frank



David Atem

## WE BUILD BRIDGES.



COURTESY INGA CARMACK



BOB JACOB (2)



One of the greatest things about Habitat's work can be the chance to share the experience with others. Habitat volunteer Inga Carmack has found a creative way to help her family grasp just what Grandma going on a Global Village trip really means.

For years, the Washington state resident took photos at family gatherings and used an online service to create little books for her five grandchildren, who now range in age from 3 to 9 and live in Dallas and Kansas City. Soon Carmack and her husband Larry Sukut were making similar books as they traveled.

Carmack's latest title — *Building a House* — details their time building with Habitat Indonesia. "Nowadays, we all kind of live in our own little bubble," Carmack says. "I thought it was important for the kids to get some close encounters, some close reference, to the rest of the world."

The slim volume is filled with photos taken by Sukut, accompanied by Carmack's explanations of their activities. "I've shown you how a house was built in 8 days," she writes. "What you can't see is how bridges of friendship, trust and understanding were built during those days. That can be as important as the house."

FINALIST



## WE REBUILD.

Disaster strikes in an instant, but shelter and housing needs remain. By giving communities the means to rebuild, Habitat has been able to support, empower and work with disaster-affected families around the world.

Photo contest finalist Robert Cordero experienced firsthand the hope that Habitat's work has brought to Joplin, Missouri.

◉ HIS PHOTOS  
OF THE BUILDING PROCESS,  
he says, show the  
TRUE MEANING  
OF THE WORD "HOPE."  
◉

## WE BUILD FOR TODAY.



STEFAN HACKER

**H**OW DOES A FAMILY RESPOND when the unthinkable occurs?

In 2007, in the wake of a disputed election in Kenya that led to riots and civil unrest, Teresia Kwambuka Silal and her family were forced from their home. Stunned by the violence occurring all around her — death, destruction, displacement — Teresia had no choice but to walk away, carrying only her children.

Happily, she ended up in a place called Maai Mahiu where today, more than 300 simple, decent stone houses constitute a safe and thriving community.

More than simply a place to live, Maai Mahiu is a symbol of renewal. It's a place where children who have known hardship can exchange their fear for joy. A place that cements kindness and community in place of isolation and uncertainty. A place where today's sunshine helps dispel yesterday's shadows.

Violence, disaster, unforeseeable circumstance — how does a family respond when the unthinkable occurs? With courage and perseverance and the help of those who will stand alongside them and build something new.

LEARN MORE

about Teresia and the community of Maai Mahiu at [habitat.org/whywebuild](http://habitat.org/whywebuild).

## WE BUILD FOR TOMORROW.



View a Notre Dame Academy digital storybook online at [magazine.habitat.org](http://magazine.habitat.org).

Every year, my kindergarten class participates in Habitat's Act! Speak! Build! Week. I believe that World Habitat Day is a wonderful way to introduce the children to Habitat's work and social justice issues. I am able to reference this day all year until our culminating activities during Act! Speak! Build! Week.

Children need an awareness of the right to adequate housing for all people and an understanding that even though they are small, they can still help make our world a better place. One of my former students, now going into fourth grade, told me that learning about Habitat was her favorite part of kindergarten; consequently, she encouraged her aunt to donate to this wonderful cause.

For World Habitat Day 2012, we had a Peace Tree to correlate with Habitat's objectives. Our Peace Tree kept a record of the books we read that focused on peace, caring, tolerance, cultural diversity and sharing. I strongly believe that it is important for children to understand that our responsibility as citizens is to help those in need, serve our community and respect all people in our world.

— Patricia Genovese, kindergarten teacher at Notre Dame Academy in Los Angeles



FINALIST

In 2011, the Notre Dame class created a T-shirt clothesline to communicate the need for adequate housing around the world, a project captured here by photo contest finalist Genovese.



## WE BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES.



**F**OR A SINGLE MOTHER OF FIVE living in a Nigeria plagued by political turmoil, the idea that her children would one day graduate from a prestigious American university might seem unattainable, if not absurd. For Lucy Okonokhua Jackson, it was the plan.

After bravely moving her young family to Atlanta, Lucy struggled to escape shelters, then lived with the fear of eviction from a cramped apartment. When she finally became a Habitat homeowner, she designated one bedroom as a library, a space where she checked homework and made sure the kids studied every day.

Her dedication paid dividends. For the Okonokhuas, the Habitat experience included a faithful friend and supporter who would help shape their future: volunteer Frank Belatti. He helped build their house and also introduced the children to the University of Notre Dame, his alma mater — and ultimately all of theirs.

Lucy credits God — and Habitat. “The Habitat house,” she says, “made it all possible.”

A mother’s encouragement and sacrifices. A volunteer’s long-term engagement and care. Five opportunities that came from the act of construction. Families find more than shelter when they build with Habitat. They find relationships and hope. They find a brighter future full of possibilities.

READ

the Okonokhuas’ full story at [habitat.org/whywebuild](http://habitat.org/whywebuild).

## WE BUILD TRADITIONS.



STEFFAN HACKER

This year marks the 80th year that the famed Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree has stood tall in the plaza. Each year since 2007, the magic of the most famous Christmas tree in the world has lived long past the holiday season, as lumber from the tree becomes part of a Habitat house.

The children’s book *The Carpenter’s Gift*, written by David Rubel in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity and illustrated by Jim LaMarche, celebrates this partnership. The story of a young boy in Depression-era New York who wishes for a decent home for his family, *The Carpenter’s Gift* shares a lesson about the importance of helping our neighbors.

“People probably say, ‘It’s done; the tree is gone.’ But not for our family,” says Habitat homeowner Iveth Bowie, whose daughter Sarah Gavrira is pictured above. “For our family, it’s more than a tree. It’s hope.”

Lumber from Rockefeller Center Christmas trees has been used to help build Habitat homes in Pascagoula, Mississippi; New York City; Stamford, Connecticut; Newburgh, New York; and Philadelphia.

EXPLORE

this special partnership and learn about the book — newly available in an e-version this year — at [habitat.org/thecarpentersgift](http://habitat.org/thecarpentersgift).



Mr. Jonathan Reckford,



9



My name is Jesse and I am nine years old. I use pictures. I have down



syndrome and do not talk yet. My mommy worries a lot about my future.



Mommy says our house is really for me because it is hard to find a place to live when



you're a grown up with a disability. I love my house, school and friends that



Play in my yard. Every day me and my mommy thank God for our



blessings.



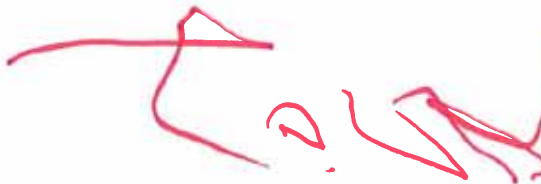
Thank you



Habitat!



Warm Wishes,



Jesse and Jesse's Mommy

Thank You so very much!  
Lusia Herbert



COURTESY TERESA HERBERT



# WE BUILD LIFELONG HOMES.

**ONE DAY, NEARLY A YEAR** after Teresa Herbert and her son, Jesse, moved into their new Habitat home in Harford County, Maryland, he suddenly began packing all his toys into a box.

Jesse, who is autistic and has Down syndrome, doesn't speak. But his mother knew what he was thinking: "It's been about a year; it must be time to move."

Jesse's life up to that point had been punctuated by moves, beginning with his family's eviction from their apartment when he was less than a year old. Now, though — after years of living on the margins, years of wondering where they would end up next — Herbert could tell her son that he would always have a place to live.

The newfound stability has produced great changes in Jesse,

who is now 9. He no longer hides under the table when other children are around. He is learning to ride a bike. And his communication skills are improving; he and his mother used a special software program that marries pictures with words to create this wonderful letter to Habitat CEO Jonathan Reckford.

Teresa works hard in what she calls "a race against time" to have finances in place for Jesse's future. Now that she can afford a stable home for him, she has returned to school with that goal in mind.

She is happiest about what the house means for Jesse's long-term prospects. "The biggest challenge for an adult with a developmental disability is housing," she says. "I can leave him this house. This is going to enable my son to never have to worry about where he's going. He will not need to be at the mercy of anyone. He will have a home."

## WE BUILD WITH HOPE, LOVE AND CREATIVITY.

Pennsylvania's York Habitat sought a unique way to pique the community's interest in the affiliate's annual "Building on Faith" project, an opportunity for various faith communities in the area to come together to build simple, decent, affordable homes.

Volunteer Roxanne Price recalled a project she'd done years ago as a 4-H educator, and the Positive Graffiti workshops were born. "Why not try to get teens involved with Habitat?" Price says. "Since many of them are too young to actually help with the builds, this allows them the opportunity to show their support to the families that Habitat serves."

Three different events were held, in order to give as many kids as possible the opportunity to participate. Two community artists volunteered to teach basics about design, theory and different types of lettering before the young artists were unleashed on 4 x 8 foot sheets of plywood to create art about hope, home and love.

Once completed, the boards embarked upon a tour of local churches and other public spots, with cards explaining the project and encouraging people to text donations to Habitat. When the Building on Faith crews start work on their 2013 build, they'll use the boards as part of roof structures, adding that bit of extra love into the homes.



STACEY SHAFERLAND



## WE BUILD BECAUSE IT MEANS SO MUCH.



Affordable housing can **REDUCE OVERCROWDING** and other sources of housing-related stress that lead to poor educational outcomes by allowing families to afford decent-quality homes of their own.



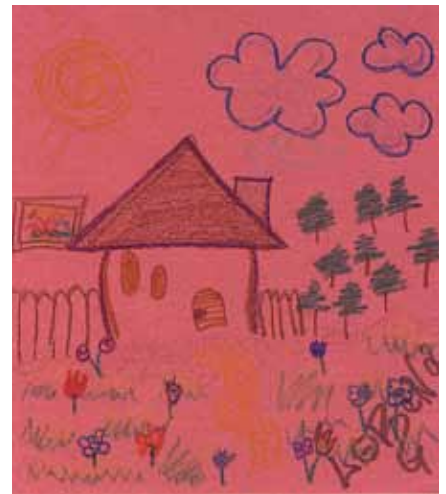
Stable, affordable housing may **REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF UNWANTED MOVES** that lead children to experience disruptions in home life or educational instruction.



Well-constructed, maintained and managed affordable housing can **HELP FAMILIES ADDRESS** or escape housing-related health hazards (e.g., lead poisoning and asthma) that adversely impact learning.

— CENTER FOR HOUSING POLICY AND NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE

The Pizano family is in the process of partnering with Dallas Area Habitat. While their parents were in a pre-purchase class, Christian and Esmerelda drew these pictures of what they hope their new home might look like. Partnering with Habitat includes financial evaluation and education to ensure families will succeed long after moving day, giving kids like Christian and Esmerelda lasting stability.



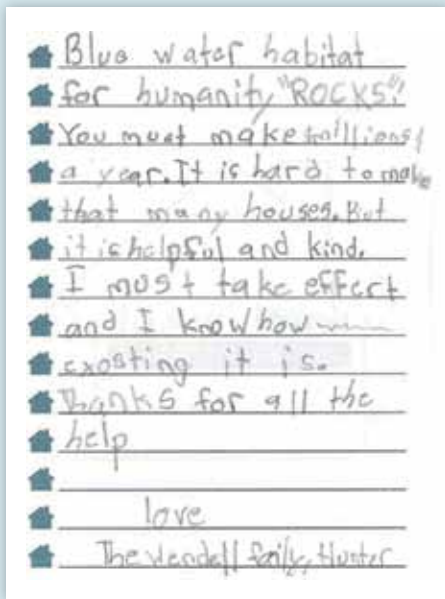
SEE

the handiwork of more young Habitat artists at [magazine.habitat.org](http://magazine.habitat.org).



# HELP US

# BUILD!



The Wendell family, Hunter back row center.

Eight-year-old Hunter Wendell was so excited about his family's Habitat house in Marine City, Michigan, that he sat down and wrote a thank-you letter to Blue Water Habitat before he had even moved in.

His family had not known the stability of their own home for far too long. Today, they know it well.

In his sweet excitement, Hunter recognizes the effort and support required to build "that many houses." Every gift that you give has an impact on the life of a child, a family, a community. Hunter — and all of those families who now sleep, learn and live under roofs they helped raise — are *why* we build. You are *how* we build.

HELP US REACH MORE FAMILIES TODAY.



THE BENEFITS OF A HABITAT HOUSE ARE **PLAIN TO SEE:**



**HEALTH,  
STABILITY,  
AND A WHOLE  
NEW OUTLOOK  
ON LIFE.**



Our work together  
creates communities that

**REFLECT WHO  
WE WANT TO BE,**

communities of hope and  
fresh perspective.



**JOIN  
US IN HABITAT'S VISION**

**OF A WORLD WHERE  
EVERYONE HAS  
A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE**





# WHY (AND WHAT) I BUILD



WHILE WE BUILD WALLS,  
WE ARE TEARING DOWN  
BARRIERS OF INEQUALITY  
& INJUSTICE  
AND REPLACING THEM  
WITH COMMUNITY  
& HOPE.

— @butcherjo

I BUILD BECAUSE  
THE DEDICATION CEREMONY  
FOR A FAMILY THAT HAS JUST  
BUILT THEIR HOUSE  
WITH YOU IS ONE OF THE MOST  
MOVING  
EXPERIENCES  
YOU CAN HAVE IN YOUR LIFE.

— Struan Bryer Robertson, VIA FACEBOOK

THE SMILE  
ON A CHILD'S FACE  
WHEN THEY FINALLY  
HAVE SPACE  
FOR THEIR OWN BED.

— @HoustonHabitat



THE SWEAT,  
SPLINTERS AND SMILES.  
NEVER FELT SO  
EMPOWERED  
BEFORE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
AS WHEN I BUILD WITH HABITAT.

— @TROndrey

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Post on Habitat's Facebook page, use the hashtag #whywebuild on Twitter, take the pledge at [habitat.org/BUiLD](http://habitat.org/BUiLD).



None of my problems or personal losses could compare with those of the people who will be living in the houses we helped build that one day. Before I knew it, I had put up a peaceful and ideal home in my heart. This is why I build.

— Simon Romulo Tantoco, member of the Habitat for Humanity Youth Council

READ

Simon's full story at [habitat.org/whywebuild](http://habitat.org/whywebuild).



WHY WE BUILD: CALL TO ACTION

# WHAT WILL YOU BUILD?

GIVE A GIFT. EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

PAINT A WALL  PACK A LUNCH  SWING A HAMMER 

# RAISE YOUR VOICE

AND ADVOCATE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

SHOP YOUR LOCAL RESTORE.



BRING A FRIEND TO A BUILD SITE.



TAKE A GLOBAL VILLAGE TRIP.



SHARE HABITAT ON SOCIAL MEDIA. SEE THE NEED, AND STEP FORWARD.

HELP MAKE THIS A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE HAS A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE.

# BUILD!

[habitat.org/getinv](https://www.habitat.org/getinv)

Perspectives from around Habitat's world

## A Justin of All Trades BY JULIA SELLERS

*One volunteer's ongoing experience illustrates the far-reaching effects of Habitat's Youth Programs*

Justin Gerstner has been a regular fixture with Habitat for Humanity of Dane County since his freshman year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He appears every Saturday by 8:15 a.m., and he's alongside the construction supervisor and other longtime volunteers until every stray nail and power tool is packed up at 4 p.m.

Heading into his first-year psychiatric residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison hasn't caused him to step back from leadership positions. Instead, he's continued to support Habitat's mission as vice president of the affiliate's board, title committee member, Young Professionals member and liaison for the university campus chapter.

He's not alone. Each year, Habitat's Youth Programs engages more than 60,000 youth ages 5 to 25. Whether it's through an alternative spring break trip with Collegiate Challenge, an intense two-week program through the Learn and Build Experience or assisting an affiliate through Youth United, Youth Programs offers a variety of hands-on introductions to Habitat's work. The goal is always that students and young professionals like Gerstner continue to support Habitat and — most importantly — adopt service as an active part of their lifestyle.

It's been 25 years since Habitat's first campus chapter began at Baylor University in partnership with Waco Habitat, and in the years since, more than 500 colleges have followed their lead in creating volunteer communities that are deeply engaged with Habitat's mission. Youth Programs alumni



Volunteer Justin Gerstner with Habitat Dane County partner family the Brices

and participants continue to fundraise, build and advocate on behalf of Habitat around the world.

“Education really shines a light on the entire aspect of service,” says Gerstner about Youth Programs efforts. “You realize you’re a small part of the solution to an entire problem. There’s so much more going on, but if you keep putting an effort into it, you’ll keep making a difference.”

Gerstner says Habitat hooks you: “It’s about building relationships and communities.” His volunteer experiences put him in touch with like-minded peers through the affiliate’s Habitat Young Professionals group, Habitat taught him about homeownership,

and Habitat introduced him to volunteers who helped him complete his basement when he became a homeowner.

“Habitat has absolutely changed my capacity to be everything that I’m going to be,” he says. “Those interpersonal actions are making you a better interviewer and team player, and the leadership that I learned through the campus chapter is absolutely going to make me better.”

“The team dynamics, public speaking, being confident about my decisions and myself are making me a better doctor and community member. I definitely didn’t expect this when I got into it. I realize how indebted to it I am.” ■

COURTESY HABITAT DANE COUNTY

# GIFTS *that do* GOOD

Consider these creative gift ideas that help put Habitat on the hearts and minds of others.

Limited-edition  
plush giraffe  
\$22.99



*The Carpenter's Gift*  
illustrated holiday cards  
Set of 12, three of each image  
\$6.25



2013 wall calendar \$5.00



Habitat Online Store  
gift cards available in  
denominations  
of \$10, \$20 and \$50

Habitat for Humanity

2013 WALL CALENDAR

## Why we build

**SHOP ONLINE OR CALL OUR STORE // [habitat.org](http://habitat.org) // (800) 422-5914**

Royalties from all online stores help support Habitat's mission.

# Coming Home

The camera captures a moment in time

WINNER



## TESFAYE'S SWEAT EQUITY

ONE SATURDAY THIS past February, I headed out to Silver Spring, Maryland, to photograph the Potomac Rotary Club helping on Montgomery County Habitat's first ever Pride Build home. This is where I met Tesfaye completing his sweat equity hours.

As with every Habitat build, the day was filled with hard work, laughter and positive energy. Tesfaye was very serious in his tasks, making sure to get everything in his new home perfect, but every time you'd catch his eye, a huge smile crossed his lips. And with each photograph he caught me taking of him, he would say, "thank you" and bow his head.

It's inspiring to witness a first-time future homeowner take such pride and put so much intention into their own home. This summer, Tesfaye, his wife and their two little girls saw their dream manifest, moving out of a bug-infested apartment and into their newly renovated home. ♣



PHOTO AND WORDS BY JESSICA NOTARGIACOMO

# WHY WE BUILD.

*Najot's grandmother was determined to provide a better home for her family, and she has. All she needed was a little help. All she needed was Habitat for Humanity.*

*Thanks to your support, families like Najot's are not alone. That's why we build. What will you build?*

 **Volunteer. Donate. Advocate.**

**Send your gift today, using the envelope inside or by visiting [habitat.org](http://habitat.org) or calling (800) HABILITAT.**