

# habitat

THE MAGAZINE FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IRELAND



## Through shelter, we empower.

No matter who we are or where we come from,  
we all deserve to have a decent life.

**“I can’t believe I finally have a place to call my own - to call home.” - Stella Kelleher.**

For Habitat homeowner Stella, it has been a year of firsts. “When I first got the news that I was definitely going to have a new home, I was so happy I cried. Then, I laughed. I was overcome with emotion,” says Stella. Before becoming a Habitat homeowner, Stella spent three years on the Dublin City Council Housing List. She was working hard to secure a deposit for a home of her own. But with the lack of affordable homes in Dublin, she was at a standstill. “If it wasn’t for the hand-up from Habitat for Humanity, I’d still

be living with my parents, hoping that one day I’d be able to afford my own home,” says Stella. Stella became a Habitat homeowner at a Home Dedication Ceremony last September. After the ceremony, she spent the first night in her new home. “I felt very safe and at ease, and a great sense of independence and achievement from buying my new home,” says Stella. While settling in, Stella focused on adding personal touches, making the place her own. “It’s like my little project. I love decorating and creating new things to make the house more homely, and to put my own style in it.” Christmas in her new home was a peaceful one,

spent with family and friends. “It was fun having people around, putting up my first Christmas tree, and then starting the New Year, planning what I’d like to do next in the house.” Stella entered the New Year with a new-found sense of security and, more importantly, hope. “I feel really happy in my new home. I have lovely neighbours and feel like I’ve been here forever.” She can look back at the first year and look forward to more firsts, seconds and countless other moments in the house, her first home.

**Thank you, to everyone who supported this project.  
You are all amazing.**

▲ New Habitat homeowner Stella Kelleher with her family. © Habitat for Humanity Ireland.



# The Philippines: Helping Communities to Build Resilience.

Every family needs help to rebuild  
when the storms have passed.



▲ Marlito Sarda, Habitat homeowner after the 2013 earthquake. © Habitat for Humanity Ireland.

**At 34, Marlito Sarda had seen his share of natural disasters. But the earthquake that struck the island province of Bohol in 2013 was different. “I thought it was the end of the world,” Sarda says.**

Then, just three weeks after the quake, Super Typhoon Haiyan – one of the strongest storms ever to make landfall – devastated the islands. Sarda and his nephews pitched a ragged tent of plastic scraps a short walk from their collapsed home, unsure of what the future would bring. By early 2014, brightly painted orange and yellow Habitat houses had started dotting Bohol’s lush landscape like beacons of hope. Sarda and his nephews soon moved into one of these earthquake- and disaster-resistant houses. These Habitat homes are called ‘core houses’, which means they are small in size but can be expanded as families’ resources allow. For now, Sarda and the boys keep the house in pristine order, with a neatly made bed in one corner and a tall bookcase separating sleeping space and living area.

**“It’s a simple home. But compared to four months of sleeping on scrap materials under a tarp, it is a palace. It will be much easier to take care of my nephews and keep them safe in this new house. I feel good about that.”**

The Philippines is hit by an average of 20 typhoons annually. Responding to and increasing communities’ resilience against disasters is a very significant part of Habitat’s work. The support of Habitat for Humanity Ireland Global Village volunteers has and is making a real difference to families who have lost everything. A huge ‘thank you’ to the 2017 volunteers who have recently returned from their trip.



▲ Habitat for Humanity Ireland’s Global Village volunteers in the Philippines in 2017  
© Habitat for Humanity Ireland.

*“There are 50 more homes due to be completed next month, ending the long wait for families living in temporary accommodation. When the site is fully completed, it will be its own community with 300 homes, a religious centre, community gardens, and day-care and school facilities. It was amazing to meet the families that had already moved into their homes. We got to hear their stories, what it was like in the aftermath of the typhoon, how they have tried to rebuild their lives, and their hopes for the future and the future of their children.”*

**- Aislinn Hayes, Team member.**





# Through the Years: Celebrating School Partnerships.

Every volunteer can help families to build strength, stability and independence.

▲ Wesley College in Romania in 2010. © Habitat for Humanity Ireland.

**“I love Habitat’s approach of ‘a hand up, not a hand out’ because the best part of our trip, for me, was getting to work with family members who would soon be calling this place home.” - Sophie Hopkins, Rathdown School.**

Every year, dedicated and committed secondary school students and teachers from around the country volunteer overseas with Habitat for Humanity Ireland. Some schools return to the same communities year after year, and witness sustainable development in action. They observe thriving communities taking shape as the Habitat homeowners from previous years settle into their homes. They see what can be achieved when people come together with a common purpose – to build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. We are tremendously grateful to our partner schools for their long-standing commitment and overwhelming generosity to our work. Their voice, time, and support is making a real difference to the families they build alongside.



▲ **Top Row L-R:** St. Columba's College in Hungary 2008; St. Columba's College in Hungary in 2007; Loreto Abbey Dalkey in Zambia in 2016; Gonzaga College in Zambia in 2016; MICC Dunmanway in Romania in 2014; **Bottom Row L-R:** Old Bawn Community School in Romania in 2014; Gonzaga College in Zambia in 2013; Bandon Grammar School in Romania in 2013; The High School Rathgar in Lesotho in 2016; Wesley College in Romania in 2011. © All images, Habitat for Humanity Ireland.

## Volunteer Overseas

**Who does it take to build a Habitat house?** It takes everyone, and that starts with YOU! Join one of our Teams!

• <b>Cambodia</b>	<b>Big Build</b>	11–18th November 2017	Age Group: 18+
• <b>Romania</b>	<b>Easter Youth Build</b>	April 2018	Age Group: 16–18
• <b>Zambia</b>	<b>Summer Student Build</b>	May/June 2018	Age Group: 18–25
• <b>Zambia</b>	<b>Summer Adult Build</b>	June/July 2018	Age Group: 18+

None of these dates suit?

Why not form your own Team? Duration: One–Two Weeks.

Learn more at [www.habitatireland.ie](http://www.habitatireland.ie) or you can contact **Mary McGarry, International Programme Manager.**

Email [mary@habitatireland.ie](mailto:mary@habitatireland.ie) or call us on 01 5310033.



# Partnerships: Building Communities

Every partnership  
makes a difference.

## Building Communities in Zambia

Partnerships build vibrant and thriving communities. We are proud of the strong partnership we are building with **Electric Aid**, and grateful for their strong support of our Orphans and Vulnerable Children programme in Zambia. This support is providing essential housing and support services to families made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

## Building Communities in Dublin

We were delighted to have employees from **Workday** participating in our 'A Brush with Kindness' programme in Dublin.

These teams took time out of their busy schedules to freshen up East Wall Youth Club. This club aims to equip young people with the skills to play an active part in the community and in society by encouraging and supporting their educational and personal development needs. Thank you to Workday for supporting our community projects in Ireland and overseas.



Thank you to every single person who is helping Habitat for Humanity build brighter futures, stronger communities and a better world. Your support, your voice and your time will help more families achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build better lives.

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