DISASTER RESILIENCE BUILD
AUGUST 2018, VIETNAM
Volunteer Information Pack
habitat.org.au/globalvillage
1800 88 55 99
Your team will be working as part of the Disaster Resilience Project in Que Son District, Quang Nam Province.

Quang Nam is a poor province located in the central coastal region of Vietnam. The majority of people in the province rely on agricultural activities (rice, short-term crops, forestation, fish breeding and farming) for their livelihoods. Infrastructure in many localities of the province is very weak and housing, water and sanitation solutions are especially insufficient.

Due to its complicated topography, Quang Nam is often affected by storms, floods, droughts, whirlwinds and landslides; communes located in the coastal and highland areas suffer the most.

Whenever natural disasters hit in the province, houses, water and sanitation facilities and agricultural production are seriously damaged.

In September 2016 The Disaster Resilience Project entered into its second phase in Quang Nam. This project continues to help build resilience to natural disasters and climate change for those living in Que Son District, while also providing resources necessary to improve water and sanitation-related household health.

FAST FACTS
Trip dates: 25 Aug - 01 Sept 2018
Registration fee: $180/160*
Fundraising goal: $1,700
Approximate in country costs (including all accommodation, meals and transport): $600 - $800 (twin share)
Registration deadline: 3 May 2018
Habitat for Humanity Australia (HFHA) is a not-for-profit organisation that builds homes, communities and hope. Our vision is a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live.

Our work extends beyond building and repairing houses – it also addresses land security, provides communities access to clean water and sanitation, provides education and training, and offers families in desperate need real hope for the future. To ensure lasting, sustainable change and to break the cycle of poverty for good, we take an approach that is holistic, community based and focuses on empowering families.

HFHA works to alleviate global poverty by developing long term, sustainable solutions that provide a ‘hand up, not a hand out’. Our partner families help with the building process, by joining the volunteers and tradespeople to build their own home. We call this ‘sweat equity’. They also repay a low interest loan and undertake financial literacy training.

Global Village (GV), our international volunteering program, offers an exciting opportunity for you to learn about another culture, travel to destinations that are off the tourist track and enhance the ongoing work of Habitat for Humanity. It also gives an insight into certain areas of international community development. The Global Village Program is a vital part of Habitat for Humanity’s work.

Vietnam is a dynamic country that is developing at an astonishing pace.

In recent years Vietnam’s economic growth and reductions in poverty have impressed the international community, with the rate of poverty falling from 60 percent to around 20 percent in the last 20 years.

However, this decline in poverty has been disproportionate, with the need still great for vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, women, children and people living with disabilities. Vietnam is also highly vulnerable to natural disasters, with approximately 70% of the population at risk of typhoons, storms and flooding. Each year, between 1 and 1.2 million people are affected by natural disasters and require emergency assistance.

Natural disasters have a significant ongoing impact as they interrupt everyday life – children cannot go to school, parents cannot work, and often, time and money are needed to rebuild damaged or destroyed homes.

Although Vietnam is a country in great need, it is also a melting pot of cultural and historical references. There are plenty of unique places to explore. Have a croissant and a coffee in Hanoi’s Parisian-style Old Quarter. Visit Ho Chi Minh’s Mausoleum to understand the country’s deep respect for its liberator and Communist figurehead and explore the War Remnants Museum to learn about the American War and the impact it still has on Vietnam today.
Bon is 68 and disabled. She is unable to walk, and needs to use a wheelchair. Bon sells lottery tickets for a living. She travels far and works long hours to sell as many tickets as she can. She earns about 900,000 VND a month (about $70 Australian dollars). However, her income is unsteady and can vary significantly month to month.

Bon used to live with her mother and son in a rental house. When her neighbours saw she was disabled they offered to sell her land for a discounted price (37 million VND, almost $2000 AUD). Bon worked hard to save this money and eventually purchased the land. Here, she built a “cottage” made of palm leaves and tin. This did not, however, offer much protection for Bon, especially when it rained. In July 2014, Global Village volunteers helped build Bon a home. “I am very grateful for the help of the volunteers,” Bon told us. “I can feel their love around me all day in my home.”

She is very happy in her new home. Bon told us one of the best things she loves about her home is the ventilation. The windows and design of the home allows air to flow freely and keeps the house cool in the hot and humid weather. Bon’s new home also has a toilet and is connected to water and electricity. She has saved money for a beautiful tiled floor.

Bon’s son works in Ho Chi Minh City and came back to help build the home with the volunteers. Bon said the experience brought them closer together as a family. Bon loves spending time in her home and enjoys cooking and decorating. She takes great pride in her home (especially her new floor) and keeps it clean and beautiful. “I’ve had a hard life but the house makes me very happy,” Bon said. “I want to stay at home all day to enjoy my house!”
YOUR ITINERARY

Saturday 26th August
Arrive in Da Nang

Your adventure begins today with your arrival in Da Nang. Make your way from Da Nang International Airport to your hotel, where you can take some time to unpack and unwind. Take yourself on a walk to acquaint yourself with the city before heading back to your hotel for dinner. You’ll meet your fellow volunteers, your team leader and the Habitat for Humanity coordinator who will be accompanying you for the week. This is your opportunity to get to know one another and get excited to spend the week working together.

Sunday 27th August
Travel to Quang Nam

Today, you’ll travel from Da Nang to Quang Nam. You’ll check in to your accommodation for the week and then enjoy a traditional cooking class with the team. After some R&R, you’ll reconvene for dinner, where Habitat for Humanity staff will give you a thorough orientation for the week ahead, including construction safety and building tips. Make sure you have a good rest to prepare for your first day on site!

Monday 28th August
Begin construction of the house

Arriving on the build site for your first day of construction, you’ll meet the family whose home you will be helping to construct, and will have the opportunity to learn about their stories. The construction supervisor and local labourers will show you the ropes, and you can get started on the house construction. There will be rest breaks for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, which will all be provided on site. You can stop for a drink of water and a break as often as you need. At the end of the day, you’ll enjoy a team dinner and a well-earned rest!
YOUR ITINERARY

Tuesday 29th - Thursday 30th August
Full days of building with your teammates

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, you’ll see the new house take shape, and you’ll be amazed at how much can be achieved in just one week. From laying bricks to mixing cement and rendering walls, there are plenty of ways to contribute. One afternoon during the week, you’ll travel off site to meet some families living in completed Habitat houses, and see how their lives have changed. Each night we will take you to some local restaurants, where you can unwind with the team and get to know one another better.

Friday 31st August
Handover ceremony and farewell lunch

The final day of building is emotional for everyone involved. You’ll add the finishing touches to the house and maybe even add some decorations too. You will welcome the partner family to their new home, and reflect together on the contribution that you have all made. This is the time to celebrate all your hard work and imagine the new life that the partner family will have in the home that you have built (be sure to bring tissues – there won’t be a dry eye in the house). You’ll share a final meal with everyone on site before saying farewell.

Saturday 1st September
Conclusion of the build

Today we will take you back to Da Nang City, where you will depart for home or further adventures. You might like to combine your build with travel to other overseas destinations or indulge in some well-deserved R&R. Although your trip has come to a close, you will be left with amazing memories and long lasting friendships that will keep the experience alive.
Reaching your $1700 target may sound daunting, especially if you haven’t done much fundraising before. You needn’t worry though – you’ll be amazed at how generous people can be, and we’ll be there to help every step of the way. We’ll support your fundraising efforts by providing you with:

- A customisable online fundraising page to collect donations
- Fundraising postcards that you can hand out to family and friends
- Access to our fundraising toolkit, which includes our best tips and resources
- Regular updates and reminders to make sure you’re on track

### COSTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>What’s included</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fee</td>
<td>$180/160*</td>
<td>This amount covers medical and evacuation insurance, your online fundraising page, police check and a build pack to get you on your way.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*cost for volunteers who are under 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Donation</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
<td>This contribution is tax deductible and we encourage you to fundraise this amount. This donation is be split between Habitat Australia and the Habitat host country to fund life changing projects, like your build. *$1,700 is only the minimum, on average our volunteers fundraise over $2,000!</td>
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<td>*For more information on where your donation goes please see page 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-country expenses</td>
<td>$600-800</td>
<td>These expenses can be fundraised but are not tax deductible. This amount will go towards the budget the Team Leader and the Habitat host country will devise to cover your accommodation, meals, bottled water, ground transportation and local activities.</td>
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*For more information on where your donation goes please see page 11

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Flights, visa, vaccinations, travel insurance and personal expenses aren’t included in your Global Village trip costs. Not all Global Village trip costs are refundable, please see the Habitat Cancellation Policy on the last page.

### HOW WE’LL HELP YOU FUNDRAISE

Reaching your $1700 target may sound daunting, especially if you haven’t done much fundraising before. You needn’t worry though – you’ll be amazed at how generous people can be, and we’ll be there to help every step of the way. We’ll support your fundraising efforts by providing you with:
I wanted my 9-year old daughter to know that everyone can make a difference.

So I travelled with my twin sister, Rachel, and a volunteer group from Australia to build a home for a single mother, Mrs Huong, her two young daughters, Dao and Mai and a 6-year-old granddaughter, Hahn, with Habitat for Humanity.

The conditions that they had been living in brought tears to my eyes: a tin roof held up with bamboo and a few sheets hung around the outside for privacy. Their shelter was continually blown over or flooded and they were constantly wet from the regular monsoonal rains. Despite the conditions they were filled with hope for a brighter future.

It was a hard week both physically (especially if you got cement duty!) and mentally but definitely one of the single most rewarding experiences of my life. Nothing can describe the immense feeling of pride we felt when we handed the home over to our Mrs Huong and her girls and their sincere, heartfelt gratitude. There was not a dry eye in sight! Having a beautiful new home meant they could raise little Hahn in a safe, happy and healthy environment and it gave them real hope for a brighter future. It was only a week out of my regular life, spent with a fantastic group of fun, like-minded people that changed lives, including my own.

Peta-Marie Taylor, volunteer, June 2015

A build will challenge you and push you out of your comfort zone, but that is the beauty of the experience.

The first build I joined was in Malawi, Africa, in 2012. I had a fantastic time finding out about people and a culture I knew very little about. I knew immediately that I would repeat the experience. Soon after, my partner and I decided to join a build to Vietnam, a country we both wanted to find out more about.

It is an awesome feeling to get to know the family, to see the energy and time commitment they are willing to contribute. It is a truly cross national collaboration where we all learn from each other. Everybody works very hard, and when it is time to dedicate the home to family, emotions are high. Knowing we have reached our communal goal is an exceptional feeling.

Every individual, but especially children, should have access to a safe and decent home. They deserve a place where they can feel protected and can rest, where they can develop a sense of security, where they can have their basic needs met, and where they have the potential for learning and development.

Nathalie Bouchard, volunteer, June 2015
“It’s amazing seeing the difference you have made in someone’s life. Helping them into a safe and secure home will change their life forever and I am so happy to have been part of it.”

- Tatum O’Toole, volunteer
What type of Visa do I need?
To volunteer in Vietnam, you need a special type of volunteer visa that is known as a category NN3 visa. This is different to a tourist visa (category DL). **Please do not apply for a tourist visa** as you will not be allowed on the build site without an NN3 visa.

How is the Visa processed?
The application process for the NN3 takes up to **10 weeks** and occurs in **two stages**. The first stage is processed as a group application and submitted to Habitat Vietnam by Habitat Australia. Once Habitat Vietnam have received the group application (at least 10-12 weeks before build start date) they apply on your behalf with the local government to for approval to volunteer in the province. Once the team is approved they will receive ‘letters of invitation’ to build in Vietnam, this can happen 2-4 weeks before the build starts. The second stage happens after you receive the letter from Habitat Vietnam (via email) and requires you to apply for the NN3 visa at your local consulate/embassy. You cannot apply for the NN3 without the letter of invitation.

What do I need to do?
If you have registered for a build, you will need to email a copy of your passport to Habitat Australia staff. Your passport must have **at least six months validity** post build. *E.g.* **If your build starts in October 2017, your passport has to be valid until April 2018.** You will need to email your passport copy by the **registration deadline** or you will not be able to go on the build. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.
CANCELLATION POLICY

Habitat for Humanity will make every effort to conduct the trip as scheduled. In the unlikely event that this is not possible (due to safety concerns, security issues, or other reasons), Habitat for Humanity will endeavour to re-route or defer the team. If the trip must be cancelled or you can no longer take part, HFHA will work with you to find another suitable trip.

HFHA cannot compensate participants for the cost of unusable airfare or any other expenses resulting from the cancellation. Again, it is strongly recommended that team members purchase travel insurance that covers change of travel and/or country closure.

All donations received by HFHA on behalf of the volunteer are committed to the field and are non-refundable. The registration fee is refundable if for any reason HFHA cancels the build before the scheduled start date. If for any reason you can no longer make the build the registration fee is not refundable. However it is transferable within a 12 month period to join another Global Village team.

WHERE DOES MY DONATION GO?

Each Global Village team provides a donation to the project they are working on. Without this financial help Habitat would not be able to continue its lifechanging programs.

Your financial contribution may not necessarily be used on the actual house that you will be helping to build. The excess donations go into the revolving fund that is used for the continuous building program. This means that the community may use your contribution to keep the program going even after you have left the country.

All donations over $2 are tax deductible to the Australian Taxation Office. Sponsors who contribute to your tax deductible donation will receive a thank you email and tax receipt from Habitat Australia.

[Diagram showing percentage breakdown of total fundraising]
CONTACT US

When you’re ready to join the build, simply fill out an application form. A member of our team will then be in touch to provide you with more information and answer any questions you may have. In the meantime, if you want to contact us, please:

Email: global.village@habitat.org.au
Call: 02 9919 7000
Web: habitat.org.au/globalvillage