

Building a Better World



In this issue:

Your supporter survey
results

Overseas team building
with Habitat

A fresh start for Danielle
and Nikolas



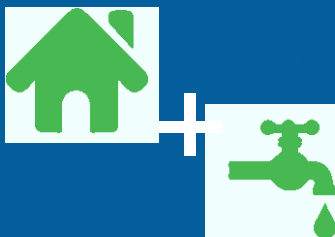
Your opinion matters!

Thank you for contributing to our recent Supporter Survey. We had such a wonderful response. Here's what you told us:



63% of you said that home is '**where the best memories are made.**' We agree and know that our partner families also feel the same way.

Your top reasons for supporting us were that you are '**passionate about the issues Habitat addresses**' and that '**everyone deserves a safe and decent place to live.**' We love hearing this and are well on our way to achieving this with your continued support.



The area of our work you are most interested in is '**shelter/homes.**' Homes provide much more than a roof overhead, they are a foundation for improvements in many other areas of life such as '**water and sanitation**' which was the second area of most interest. To further make an impact in this space, Habitat has recently been awarded a grant to improve health, gender equality and well-being of Fijian communities through inclusive, sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene programs.

The countries we work in that are of most interest outside Australia are Cambodia and Nepal. Mithu and Son's family (left) were identified to be in great need by Habitat Nepal and were selected as recipients of a new, earthquake-resilient home that they moved into earlier this year.



Thank you again for these insights. They indicate we are on the right track and also reinforce just how special you are for supporting Habitat and our partner families around the world.

Unite to build

Grant Thornton gives back

Did you know we provide overseas volunteering opportunities for corporate supporters?

In 2015 leading financial services firm, Grant Thornton sent 135 volunteers from its senior leadership teams to Cambodia to build 10 homes for families living with HIV/AIDS. For Grant Thornton CEO, Greg Keith this was not only a chance to give back but a team building experience in place of the firm's annual partner's conference. Three years later in July 2018, Grant Thornton returned with 152 volunteers to build 13 homes in Quang Nam, Vietnam.

The 13 families who benefitted from the project were chosen due to the nature of their precarious housing conditions. Their homes, battered by severe weather conditions common to the area such as typhoons and storms, were severely damaged with leaky roofs, rotten wooden walls and unsanitary toilets. The families, who mostly work in seasonal farming, have unsteady incomes and simply cannot afford to make repairs or build a new home.

Grant Thornton's support has been able to change this story. Over four days Grant Thornton volunteers began building new houses equipped with water and sanitation facilities alongside the families and local tradespeople.

In addition, the experience allowed leaders from Grant Thornton's offices - many of whom had never met before - to come together to strengthen and engage the relationships between partners.

Mr Keith says the importance of the experience lay in inviting all partners and providing a team building exercise that would allow the firm to develop as a whole, rather than selected individuals. For Grant Thornton the experience not only changed culture and engagement internally but also attracted a new client base.

"WE HAVE AT LEAST TWO MAJOR CLIENTS WHO I KNOW CHOSE TO COME TO US BECAUSE THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT WHAT WE DID AND THEY WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH AN ORGANISATION THAT WAS PREPARED TO INVEST ALONG THOSE LINES," SAID MR KEITH.

Feeling inspired? Habitat for Humanity offers corporate volunteering experiences for groups of 12 people onwards. Visit [habitat.org.au/partnerships](https://www.habitat.org.au/partnerships) to learn how your workplace can get involved.



Giving Aussies a hand up

Building hope at home

Congratulations to Nikolas and Danielle (top right) who were recently handed the keys to their new home in South Australia.

To date Habitat for Humanity Australia has built more than 160 homes in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland.

Families partner with Habitat for Humanity in the construction of their home. Each partner family receives an interest free, 20 year loan based on 95 percent of the market value of the completed home.

Partner families contribute 500 hours of their own time in the planning and construction phases. This is called 'sweat equity' and is recognised in the 5 percent discount on market value that we return to them. For example, if a home is valued at \$300,000 the partner family will have accumulated effectively \$15,000 in equity from their own efforts on the day they move in.

Danielle and Nikolas join other Aussie Habitat families such as Eddy and Marie (bottom right) in Victoria. A failed business venture saw Eddy and Marie lose all their assets just before retirement. With the stress of rising rent and plateauing wages, the couple could not foresee a way toward financial stability.

"We see Habitat for Humanity as offering some security in the future and a relief from the constant stress we have come to live under. It is an opportunity to contribute to the community and use our strengths to aid others," said Eddy.

To meet more of our Australian partner families and learn about our domestic building program visit habitat.org.au/australia





A fresh start for Nepal

Families rebuild after the 2015 earthquakes

Maya's one-room mud home did not stand a chance against the devastating 2015 earthquakes.

Her home crumbled to the ground and the little possessions she had were lost with it. In the aftermath, her neighbours came to her aid to build a temporary shelter using the debris from her home including bricks and tin sheets. But thankfully with your help, Maya was able to move into a permanent disaster-proof home that she can call her own.

Her new home consists of a bedroom, kitchen and toilet and gives her much needed privacy and comfort.

"After moving into my new house, I no longer have to bear the heat, cold and rain that I have been suffering with for the past two years. Thank you," Maya said.

Not far from Maya lives Lata (right) and his family. Lata too lost everything in the earthquakes and has had to take shelter in his neighbour's home ever since.

Lata, who relies on seasonal work has struggled to save money to rebuild his home. Sadly this is the case for many families affected by disaster. Recovery is always a long road, but without some additional help it can be many years before families who already struggle to make ends meet and have lost everything are able to rebuild.

Thanks to supporters like you Lata's family will be moving into their new home this year.



In the three years since the 2015 earthquakes 45,829 families have been assisted by Habitat for Humanity supporters through interventions from shelter kits to permanent housing with access to water and sanitation facilities. This includes 692 new houses, like Maya's and an additional 373 that are under construction, like Lata's.

To learn more about our rebuilding project in Nepal and to volunteer to help families like Maya's and Lata's visit [habitat.org.au/globalvillage](https://www.habitat.org.au/globalvillage)



Spotlight on Fiji

Improving housing and water

Fiji is much more than idyllic palm trees and white sand.

Blessed with rich forest, mineral and fishing resources, Fiji is one of the most developed Pacific Island economies and serves as a hub for many small island nations in the region.

However, a chronic lack of investment and under-employment pose obstacles to sustainable and equitable economic growth. Poverty and inequality continue to be major challenges with 31 percent of Fijian citizens living below the poverty line. It is estimated that about 140,000 people or 17 percent of Fiji’s population live in substandard housing conditions in informal settlements. An estimated 80 percent of people living in these settlements live below the national poverty line, earning less than 90 Fiji dollars (US\$50) a week.

The rising cost of living and disasters such as 2016’s Cyclone Winston increased the poor’s vulnerability. The poorest households typically lack piped water, adequate sanitation, electricity or rubbish disposal.

Thanks to the help of wonderful supporters like you, Habitat works on a range of projects throughout Fiji including disaster response and recovery through repairs and temporary housing. We also construct and improve water and sanitation systems in rural and remote areas and focus on disabled access housing projects.

Habitat homes in Fiji are typically built with a combination of locally supplied timber, concrete, and metal roofing. Low-income families contribute their own labour in building the new homes.

Water for life

Access to clean water doesn’t just benefit a community’s health but has a wide range of effects on families in developing communities.

In Fiji the *Water for Women* project, supported by Australian Aid will contribute to building stronger, more resilient communities through the access of water, sanitation and hygiene to marginalised groups. This includes women and girls, people with disabilities and people from the LGBTIQ+ community. The project will also empower these groups to become active in helping training fellow community members on safe hygiene practices and be part of behaviour change in their own communities.

To learn more visit habitat.org.au/fiji



Meet Asma

A respected voice in her community

We are working in some of Bangladesh's largest slums to improve living conditions and empower communities.

As part of this we conduct assessments and seek feedback from the community on what improvements are urgently needed to make their community more resilient and accessible. From this, it was decided that two long paved drains be constructed to reduce flooding in the local area.

The construction of the drains is being overseen by the Community Committee led by Asma. In her role, Asma helps with logistics and ensures the construction is to an appropriate standard.

Prior to being elected as Chair, Asma said there were limited opportunities for women to be involved in leadership and decision making roles in the community.

"I'm very proud to be Chair of the Committee," said Asma. "I have the opportunity to communicate and work with different people and the power to solve some of the community's problems."



A new start

Homes for families in need

In Cambodia, we are working with 32 vulnerable families to provide access to safe and decent homes. This includes those living with or impacted HIV/AIDS, the elderly and children who are household leaders

Phann is a 48-year-old single mother. Previously, she and her 10-year-old son lived in a makeshift house constructed from pieces of wood, zinc sheets and palm leaves – materials which unsurprisingly do not offer sufficient protection from the elements.

"I know that my house would not have lasted much longer but at the same time I did not earn enough income to afford a new house. I worried about my son and where we would live if the house collapsed," Phann said.

Phann's income from seasonal labour and doing odd jobs around the community provides just enough to cover basic needs and allows her son to attend primary school. Sadly this limited income did not permit her to build a better place for her family to live. However, after receiving a hand up from Habitat supporters a new home has made a world of difference. "You have given me a new, decent place to live," said Phann. "It is much better than before. I'm very happy."



Meet Annie -

Our Philanthropy Manager

Annie manages our Philanthropy program and says the best part of her job is meeting our wonderful donors.

"Every day I'm truly inspired by their passion and commitment to helping build a better life for some of the world's most disadvantaged families," said Annie. "On a recent trip to Cambodia I met some of these families so I saw first-hand just how much a safe, new home means."

"One of the ways many of our donors choose to support Habitat is with a gift in their Will. We encourage everyone

to remember their loved ones first but we do hope people may consider remembering Habitat when they write or update their Will. Just imagine the difference a safe home and clean water can make. Today's children and those to follow will be happier, safer and better educated. It is an incredible investment for future generations."

To learn more about leaving a gift in your Will visit habitat.org.au/giftsinwills. You can also call Annie for a confidential chat on 02 9919 7024 or email annie@habitat.org.au, she'd be delighted to hear from you.



Habitat find-a-word

Can you find the below words that relate to our work?

- Habitat

Australia

Cambodia

Vietnam

Nepal

Fiji

Indonesia

Bangladesh
- Myanmar

Home

Toilet

Water

Independence

Stability

Strength

A	Y	I	I	A	I	N	D	O	N	E	S	I	A
U	R	N	R	I	S	T	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y
S	A	D	C	S	S	E	P	W	D	N	A	T	H
T	M	E	A	E	S	A	T	A	A	T	A	M	S
R	N	P	M	N	T	T	S	B	P	T	L	I	E
A	A	E	B	N	R	A	T	O	I	L	E	T	D
L	Y	N	O	B	E	T	G	E	Y	N	T	R	A
I	M	D	D	L	N	I	E	A	L	D	P	V	L
A	E	E	I	A	G	B	T	N	A	D	N	I	G
E	A	N	A	P	T	A	H	R	E	W	E	E	N
C	M	C	D	E	H	H	E	G	E	G	I	T	A
T	B	E	A	N	B	H	R	R	L	G	E	N	B
S	E	M	O	H	T	I	I	E	B	S	E	A	A
S	T	F	I	J	I	O	E	N	G	I	B	M	N

