

Build a Better World

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Tracey & Josh: Housing success in Victoria

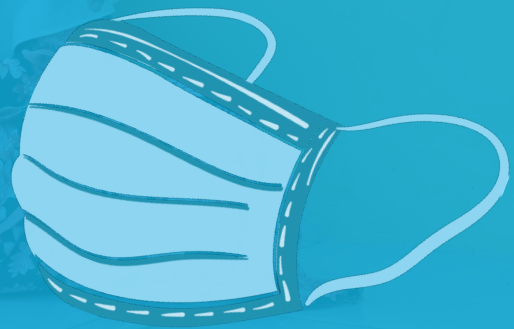
Launching our Local Village Program

Hike for Habitat in Larapinta



Impacts of COVID-19

The world is changing
and so are we



By supporting Habitat for Humanity's mission, you are taking concrete action to address today's global affordable housing crisis

Your partnership with Habitat helps families improve their lives, whether they live near us or thousands of miles away. Together, our efforts make it possible for people to escape unstable living conditions and move into safe, affordable homes that they have built for themselves alongside Habitat volunteers.

We know that the communities we work in will be disproportionately affected.

Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International recently told us that *"it didn't take the coronavirus to reveal a link between health and housing. The connection is much deeper. Unsuitable and unstable housing has direct and documented negative health outcomes, especially for children."*

While we all make changes to our lives to combat the effects of COVID-19, the same is true of our overseas projects, including:

- Community training sessions will be adapted to include information on COVID-19 and the risk of future pandemics in relation to shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, and disaster risk reduction.
- Monitoring and evaluation of project effectiveness will be done remotely due to travel restrictions limiting face-to-face visits with communities.
- The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women and people with disabilities will be addressed in the development and delivery of programs.
- Child protection will continue to be of the highest priority, to ensure risks are minimised and children are protected even under changed circumstances presented by COVID-19.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support, which is especially meaningful as the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has multiplied so many families' need for safe, stable housing. Because of your commitment, Habitat families can begin to create and regain the financial stability to live healthy, stable lives for generations to come.

Virtual Event

Online initiatives for real-world change



Project #2 | Nepal's Most Excluded- Helping Indigenous and Dalit families out of poverty

As Nepal makes strides to modernisation, some castes and ethnic groups continue to be marginalised. For these excluded groups, the lack of land and home ownership is a core reason behind their poverty and vulnerability. Selina Chan pitched for funds to help provide housing for 80 of the most excluded families in the Dhanpura community. The Nepalese government matched all donations received dollar for dollar. In total we raised \$22,792 for this project.

Project #3 | Accommodation and support for vulnerable youth, South Australia

This project is aimed at addressing a shortage of safe accommodation for young people, with a focus on health and well-being, education, development, connection and engagement. Ben Sarre pitched for funds to ensure suitable accommodation is available for vulnerable youths to avoid facing risks associated with couch surfing or sleeping rough. An anonymous donor generously provided matched funding in support of this project. In total we raised \$35,165 for this project.

Our live crowdfunding event made giving fun, inspirational and easy! We thank all of you who donated and if you missed it this year be sure to let us know so you're sure to be there for the next one.

We invited all our supporters to come together for our neighbours in Australia, and across Asia and the Pacific at our first-ever virtual giving event, held completely online.

This event was an exciting, highly contagious, live crowdfunding session, expertly led by our amazing MC for the evening, Jacinta Parsons. We pitched donors three different projects and if they liked the sound of a project, they could pledge their support. Each donation encouraged others to donate, and seeing the donations roll in created a real buzz watching the support increase. Here at Habitat we are incredibly grateful for the 250 supporters that signed on and achieved such a tremendous fundraising goal.

Project #1 | Bushfire Recovery, New South Wales

Tom Alexander has been working on the ground since the smoke cleared, restoring hope to communities affected. Tom pitched for funds to ensure the program can continue to help salvage and rebuild, assisting homeowners.

Benevolence Financial Group generously provided matched funding in support of this project. In total we raised \$28,854 for this project.





Tracey & Josh

deserve a decent place to call home

Our homes are often our largest investment and something to be proud of. A space that is truly yours. Often a home is something we can happily pass down through generations to support our children, and their children.

For single mother Tracey, the dream of owning a home has always been just that – a dream. Her three children count on her to raise them, keep them safe and provide hope for their futures. Their current housing situation in private rental accommodation is inadequate, with no prospect of being able to purchase their own home.

The situation is made particularly difficult due to youngest child, Joshua's severe disability. Joshua (13) has cerebral palsy, a physical disability that affects his movement and posture. Joshua's disability has severe physical effects, impacting all areas of his life, requiring full time care.

"Our greatest wish is to be able to settle down in a home that would serve his current and future needs, as well as the needs of the rest of our family".

Joshua's disability requires a home with modifications such as larger hallways, door entries, appropriate bathroom facilities and wheelchair accessible entrances. All of these modifications will help provide Joshua with increased independence as he gets older and will also help to decrease the burden for long term care on the family. With work almost complete on the family's new home, the new beginning they have been waiting for is almost here.

The thing Tracey and her boys are most excited about is having a space to create new and wonderful memories.

A place to 'hang family pictures on the wall, have a veggie garden, and finally get a family pet'.

Tracey is a country girl at heart and has always desired to move back to a country town and be a part of a small community. She's looking forward to organising local barbecues and getting involved in the wider community, all the while having a safe place to call home.

The three bedroom home has been designed with input from Tracey and some of her support team. This ensures it meets the needs of her family; now and into the future. Through the support of people like you, not only will Tracey and her children achieve strength, stability and self-reliance through this new home, but it will incorporate special facilities especially for Joshua's condition.

These will include:

- Wider doors and passages
- An adapted en-suite off his bedroom
- A lifting device in his bedroom
- A special shower
- A carer's room off his bedroom.

The house is larger and more expensive to build than any home Habitat for Humanity Victoria has built before. But we know you will agree when we say that Tracey and her family deserve it...and so much more...

Home Handover Day - Tracey, Joshua and the family will receive keys to their new home next month.



Housing Through the Ages

An interview with one of our oldest and youngest supporters



Oldest:

- Margaret, 93 years old
- Has made a monthly donation for over 10 years

Youngest:

- Caitlin Ebsworth, 16 years old
- Participated in a Global Village build in Cambodia with her school last year

1. What drew you to Habitat?

Margaret: I've always been thankful to have my own home and think it is one of the most important things to have in life - a roof over your head, a place to call home.

Caitlin: My School, Moama Anglican Grammar has a partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

2. How does your support of Habitat change the world for the better?

Margaret: If everyone does have a place to call home – that would be such a wonderful and important thing.

Caitlin: I would like to see Habitat for Humanity change the world, in terms of allowing everyone to be able to meet their wellbeing, and needs. I would also love to see third world countries, have a growing equality of living and opportunities.

3. What was your best memory of the houses you've lived in?

Margaret: The time when the children were young and growing up together – it was the beginnings of things. Times were not always easy, and we didn't have much money to spare, but we were very grateful for what we had. We built a life together in our home, and that was very special.

Caitlin: Like a lot of children I created many memories in the houses I grew up in. I did things like building cubby houses, playing games in the backyard, having movie nights cuddled up on the lounge and new years eve celebrations. My favourite memory was at Christmas, when I was surrounded by my parents, grandparents, uncle, aunty and cousins. We opened presents, had a nice Christmas lunch around the big table, all talking and laughing. The day was finished with a swim in the pool, splashing around and playing games. It will always be one of my favourite memories.



Local Village

Supporting local communities

Over 6,000 volunteers have given their blood, sweat, tears and much needed funds towards our Global Village program, assisting countless families and communities throughout the Asia Pacific region, and around the world.

For obvious reasons, Global Village as we know it is on hold until the pandemic situation eases, and borders can reopen. While our thoughts and your funds continue to assist families who need it now more than ever overseas, there are families closer to home who need our help too.

We have listened to their stories, and how often they have felt neglected, and are determined to help them rebuild after the devastating bushfires that gripped the nation.

And now YOU can get involved!

Call 1800 88 55 99 for more info, or email globalvillage@habitat.org.au

With your support as a volunteer, we will help salvage and rebuild, assisting homeowners affected by the bushfires in the Adelaide Hills.

You will work alongside families, helping clean up, sort and pile debris including rebuilding sheds, outbuildings, fencing and replanting trees. As a team we can achieve so much more in a few days than the families would have achieved in months, saving them so much time, money and worry.

The team will stay in a local boutique hotel or cottage, and sample some of the food and wine that the region is known for, helping the local economy which has struggled through the aftermath of the fires and the pandemic more recently.

We'd love for you to join the first-ever 'Local Village' team and look forward to creating a memorable, and life-changing experience for you and the families we will help.



Larapinta Challenge 2021

Join the Hike For Habitat Challenge based in the beautiful Northern Territory

On this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, you'll trek through the Australian outback on one of the most spectacular walking tracks in the world—the Larapinta Trail. Standing on ancient escarpments and gazing out upon the ochre-coloured landscapes of Central Australia. You will follow Aboriginal Dreaming tracks and trek beside one of the world's oldest river systems.

Best of all, you'll help families in Australia and the Asia Pacific access affordable and safe housing. The trip, due to set out on 24th May 2021, will last for a week where you will arrive in Alice Springs and spend the next 7 days on a moderately difficult hike, experiencing the best landscapes Australia has to offer. Each hiker will fundraise \$3,000 and every dollar raised on this adventure will go directly to the Home Together Fund. This will enable Habitat for Humanity Australia to remain sustainable and ensure we can continue to help those most in need in Australia and the Asia Pacific region, as soon as we are able to.

Give a hand up to those in need while you get a hand up one of the Northern Territory's highest peaks.

Highlights

- Experience Central Australia and explore the mountains, valleys, rivers and desert landscapes of the Red Centre.
- Uncover the history of Australia's traditional owners and gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous culture
- Ascend Mount Sonder, one of the Northern Territory's highest peaks
- Help Habitat for Humanity Australia empower through shelter.

Call 1800 88 55 99 for more info, or email globalvillage@habitat.org.au



Thank you.

For building a better world for all



How to get involved:

Become a HopeBuilder: Support vulnerable families and communities in Australia and around the world. To donate visit <https://www.habitat.org.au/how-you-can-help/donate/>

Local Village: A 4-day bushfire recovery trip to the Southern Highlands, New South Wales. More info: <https://www.habitat.org.au/volunteer/volunteer-in-australia/>

Hike for Habitat: On this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, you'll trek through the Australian out-back on the Larapinta Trail. Register now: <https://inspiredadventures.com.au/events/habitat-for-humanity-larapinta-2021/>