



June 2010

*"Many things we need can wait. The children cannot.
Now is the time his bones are formed, his mind developed.
To him we cannot say tomorrow, his name is today"*

Gabriela Mistral, Nobel Prize-winning poet from Chile

Each year on June 1st, the world marks International Children's Day. Childhood is the most precious time of life, a time of rapid development when experiences shape the adults we become. A child's healthy growth and development are dependent on many factors, including the immediate environment in which they live. Research has demonstrated that children's life chances are affected by the standard of their housing.

As an international housing charity, Habitat for Humanity understands the connection between housing and children's future well-being. It has been working with low-income families throughout the world to help them improve their lives for the sake of the next generation.

Join us in the efforts to support children and fight against poverty housing!

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In Bulgaria: A house for children with special needs

Habitat for Humanity has been supporting Bulgarian families with disabled children in and around Sofia to improve their living standards. [Read](#) how a small loan from Habitat changed the life of 10-year old Geri Petkova and her parents.



In Kyrgyzstan: A warm place for special children

A family from Bishkek, who was helped to renovate their old house through a Habitat project, now wants to transform lives of other families with autistic and mentally disabled children. [Read](#) how a retired psychologist and a former army officer plan to bring a small change to their community.



Habitat children of today

Owning a home has the potential to break the cycle of poverty for low-income families, especially for the next generation. Watch a [slideshow](#) of children with special needs from around Europe and Central Asia, and other regions, where Habitat works to fight poverty housing and supports vulnerable children.



In Slovakia: Painting walls, breaking barriers

For a few weeks at the end of May and the start of June, the Habitat staff in Europe and Central Asia abandoned computers, e-mails, papers and reports for a set of construction tools. Rain or shine, the entire office goes for a day and a half to see Habitat's mission of fighting poverty housing in action. [Read](#) where the team worked this year.

News in Brief

Rebuilding Chile: Three months later

In response to the February 27 earthquake, Habitat for Humanity has launched the project "Physical and Spiritual Force for Chile" - "Newen Neque for Chile" in Mapuche, the indigenous language of Chile. Habitat can never go it alone. [Download](#) this colorful three month report to learn how you can support efforts to partner with 10,000 families in the most ravaged regions of the country.

Support Habitat for Humanity's disaster response actions

Two years ago, on May 12, 2008, a devastating earthquake ripped through China's Sichuan province. Since then, Habitat for Humanity Asia Pacific has helped some 1,000 affected families to recover or rebuild a safe, permanent home. [Learn more!](#)

Floods and landslides in Poland and Tajikistan

Habitat for Humanity is assessing the housing need in the impacted areas of Poland and Tajikistan that have been recently hit by severe floods and landslides. This year in Poland, as a result of the worst floods in decades, more than 2,000 people had to leave their homes. Mudslide and floods in the Khatlon province of Tajikistan left more than 3,000 displaced without a proper shelter. Your [gift today](#) will support Habitat's ability to respond to disaster situations around the world as soon as possible.

Tajikistan water filter projects wins an environmental award

Habitat for Humanity Tajikistan recently won the national [Global Energy Award 2010](#) for its water project "Water for life - bio-sand water filters." The prize was handed out on the eve of the ceremony to mark World Environment Day held under the auspices of the U.N.'s Environment Program in Kigali, Rwanda.

Social media news

Follow the latest news from Habitat for Humanity through [Twitter](#). Download Habitat [web banners](#) to support its mission to fight poverty housing! Habitat is approaching 50,000 fans mark on its [Facebook](#) page.

Get Involved with Habitat

The [Global Village](#) program is a great opportunity to travel, learn about another country and make a difference in the global fight against poverty housing. Visit our Global Village section now! Organize a team of volunteers from among your friends, co-workers, school or other groups, or join one of our featured trips.

- **Trip to Tajikistan:** Building homes for families in Khujand from September 24 - October 8, 2010. If you want to sign up for the trip, check [this information](#).

Habitat for Humanity International is a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its foundation in 1976, Habitat has built and renovated more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for 1.75 million people.

In Europe and Central Asia Habitat for Humanity International works in 20 countries, building and repairing houses, offering housing microfinance services, improving water and sanitation, working on disaster mitigation and response and advocating for affordable housing. In this region, Habitat has served more than 10,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners.

Find out more at www.habitateurope.org