



June 2013

Childhood is one of the most cherished times of our lives. Through innocence and curiosity, we learn about ourselves and discover the world around us. With the help of our families we learn the difference between good and bad and right and wrong. And with encouragement from those who love us we dream about the many opportunities that await us as adults.

Sadly, however, many children around the world cannot even imagine a bright future. Due to the relentless cycle of poverty, they live day-to-day in unsanitary and unsafe conditions, with little hope for improvement. But Habitat – and you – can help.

June 1 is International Children's Day. Join us in helping families break the cycle of poverty through safe and decent shelter, where children can learn, thrive, feel safe, and dream.

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The life journey of a child

Did you know that more than 200 babies are born every minute all over the world? Childhood is a time of fast learning and building a foundation that determines the adults we become. Have you ever wondered how it feels to grow up without a home? Just [try to imagine](#).



A teenager's perseverance

Some people's childhood gets cut short by unfortunate events and they are forced to mature earlier. Asani Douglas is 17 years old. He was forced to abandon school to care for his sick mother and his brother and sister. [Read to learn](#) an important life lesson about a teenager that left everything behind to take care of his family.



This Easter brought hope to a family in Romania

Fourteen years ago, one affiliate of Habitat for Humanity Romania started a project to help low-income families, orphans or people with disabilities to celebrate the resurrection of Christ in a decent, healthy and safe home. Now, this annual event is called [the Easter Home](#).



ArcelorMittal Foundation gives hope to families in Trinidad and Tobago

Since becoming a partner of Habitat for Humanity, the ArcelorMittal Foundation has supported globally more than 700 families to have a safe, healthy and decent place to live. Last year, Habitat Trinidad and Tobago launched a new project in the Eastern Corridor of Trinidad to support 16 families with better housing and 32 families through training. [Read more](#) about the project of these two organizations.

News in Brief

Habitat Youth Build – the largest volunteer build event

This year's event in Asia peaked on April 27 with 14,000 volunteers at simultaneous builds across 42 sites in seven countries. Habitat Youth BUILD 2013 has resulted in more than 600 families securing decent housing. The efforts of tens of thousands of volunteers, both onsite and online, were vital to the campaign. Read more about this event [here](#).

A call to action

A series of spring tornadoes in Texas and Oklahoma has left many communities devastated—and more storms are predicted. One of the tornadoes struck a community in the Granbury area of Texas, where up to 120 homes were damaged or destroyed in a neighborhood that included 60 Habitat for Humanity houses. Don't waste another moment, [help now!](#)

Healthier homes could save 10,000 lives a day

Over 10,000 children die every day from diseases and illnesses which could be prevented by improving the conditions in which children live. A report released by the World Health Organisation on 12th April 2013 found that the reduction of indoor pollution alone could reduce the incidence of severe pneumonia. Read the full [article](#).

Habitat and Social Media

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Pinterest](#). Tell the world about your volunteer trips and experience!

International Children's Day

On 1st of June, let's reflect on children around the world and the issues they face. Watch [this slideshow](#) and think about what you can do to help them.

Summer Build in Romania

7 – 17 July, 2013: Join Kim Penzhorn and the team to help a family in need of a safe, decent and affordable shelter. Find out more about the trip and sign up [here](#).

Habitat for Humanity International is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization that brings together people of all races, nationalities and religions to build homes, communities and hope. Since 1976, Habitat has served more than 600,000 families by building and improving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. An estimated 128,000 of these families are in Europe, Middle East and Africa, where Habitat works in nearly 30 countries.

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