

# **BLUEPRINT FOR VOLUNTEERING**

Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program



## What is Global Village?

Global Village offers international volunteers the opportunity to take part in the "hands on" construction renovation or of homes in more than 40 countries around the world. Participating in a Global Village team offers a unique travel experience and an unforgettable opportunity to be fully immersed in the local community. Team experience great members personal growth through cultural and linguistic challenges, and return to their home countries transformed.

Join a Global Village team and you can make a difference in the lives of Hungarian families in need of a simple, decent place to live. You might just find your own life changed as well.

# HUNGARY

## **Building together for a brighter future**

Hungary today is a member of the NATO and the EU since May 2004. As a former member of the Eastern Bloc, however, Hungary is grappling with deep scars of communist economic and social policies.

An estimated 30,000 homeless people live in Hungary, and there are 50,000 families on the edge of homelessness. Habitat Hungary works with local municipalities and partner NGOs to help 5-10 homeless individuals and couples living on the street or in self-built shacks, and families currently living in temporary shelter, to move into decent and affordable rentals each year. Social workers provide social care to help them start a new life and keep their homes. Volunteer teams are involved in the renovation of empty, rundown rentals to turn them into real homes for the families. The projects also serve as basis for our advocacy work. We advocate for fair and inclusive housing policies for our 30,000 homeless citizens, 50,000 families in severe housing crisis, and thousands of others in need.

#### **Habitat facts**

Families served more than 3,600

Construction types
Renovation
Repairs and painting

Hosting season May - October

**Team size**10 volunteers

Number of volunteers hosted more than 2,800

# Did you know

The official language is Hungarian. It originates from the Finno-Ugric tribe of languages which is believed to be one of the hardest languages to learn.

Some of the great inventions like Rubik's cube, ballpoint pen and holography were invented by Hungarians.





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### **Logistics**

#### How to get there

Teams fly to Budapest airport.

#### **Transportation**

Volunteers arriving individually are kindly asked to take a taxi from the airport. Those arriving in groups are picked-up by a rented minibus. For daily transportation to the work site and back teams use public transportation.

#### Lodging

Teams are accommodated in double rooms with en-suite bathroom in simple and affordable hotels in the center of Budapest. The hotels offer breakfast and wireless internet access.

#### Food and water

Breakfast is provided at the hotel. Lunch is delivered to the site. Dinner is served at local restaurants. Bottled water is provided throughout the day.





#### Meet a Habitat family

Gabor, a retired carpenter, had been homeless for 15 years. He first lost his home after his divorce. Later he had another partner, but when the relationship ended, he had nowhere to go and ended up on the street. In 2011, Gabor moved to an abandoned area in the woods, where he lived in a self-built shack. Gabor was selected to participate in Habitat Hungary's Housing First program in 2015. He worked hard all summer long together with Habitat volunteers to renovate a run-down rental apartment and turned it into a decent and affordable home. He moved in, in December 2015.

### What do the volunteers say?

"Thank you for a great trip! This was my first GV and my first time away from the USA. I absolutely loved Hungary and building with the families. Koszonom!"

"This was an experience I will never forget in my life. This helped me grow as a person and my vision of poverty."

Join us on a journey of adventure, life enrichment and joy, choose a place and start making a difference now!



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