



What is Global Village?

Global Village offers international volunteers the opportunity to take part in the "hands on" construction or renovation 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 members experience great 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 Polish families in need of a simple, decent place to live. You might just find your own life changed as well.

POLAND

Building together for a brighter future

As a former member of the Eastern Bloc, Poland has to deal with the legacy left by communist economic and social policies. Despite tremendous reforms, overcrowded and damp housing without proper sanitation is still the reality for too many of Poland's low-income working families. These families are often forgotten behind the walls of aging Soviet-style apartment building blocks. Economic Housing Institute research indicates that almost one in four apartments in Poland should be condemned.

This sad statistic exacerbates the problem that Poland needs more than 1.5 million affordable apartments just to meet current demand. Of the existing housing stock, approximately one in eight homes do not have a kitchen and almost one in 10 share a toilet with an entire floor of apartments or do not have an indoor facility at all. With a severe affordable housing shortage, low-income families often have no choice but to live in substandard housing that threatens their health and safety.

Habitat facts

Families served
more than 1,050

Construction types
Apartment building
Renovations and adaptations
Housing solutions for vulnerable groups

Hosting season
Warsaw: March-November
Gliwice: April- October

Team size
10-15 volunteers

Number of volunteers hosted
more than 2,100

Did you know

Pope John Paul II was Polish. He was the only Polish Pope to date and served the second longest. Additionally he is credited with contributing to hastening the end of communism in Poland and throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

Poland boasts 17 Nobel Prize winners, including four Peace Prizes and five in literature.



BLUEPRINT FOR VOLUNTEERING

Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program



Logistics

How to get there

Both the national office in Warsaw and the affiliate in Gliwice are hosting GV teams. Depending on the project, the GV team will arrive at Warsaw or Krakow international airports. Gliwice: 1 hour by bus/minibus from Krakow airport or 3h15 by train from Warsaw.

Transportation

Habitat Poland representative will meet the team upon arrival. The hosting staff will make arrangements for the most convenient transportation from the airport.

Lodging

Habitat Poland can offer various types of lodging, from camping and simple hostels to three-star hotels with WiFi, TV, telephone and private bath. Selection of lodging is dependent upon the team budget and the location, as some projects are located in the city center and others in small villages off the beaten track.

Food and water

Depending on the project, food can be prepared and provided fully by the hosting family or project beneficiaries, or ordered in local restaurants. Tap water in the cities is safe to drink however we always provide bottled water throughout the day.



Meet a Habitat family

Damian was born in Iganie Nowe, a small town close to Siedlce. Parents gave him away to an orphanage. At the age of three, Damian was taken by a foster family together with his brother, but this placement did not go well. Damian fell into pathological behaviors: left his school, got involved with drugs, and committed few petty-offences. Four years ago, by the decision of the Juvenile Court, he was sent to Centre for Juvenile Social Reintegration, operated by the Orionine Fathers. The fathers run an innovative social reintegration programme called 'Trampoline' which creates a model system of supportive social housing for young adults leaving social reintegration institutions and foster care institutions to prevent their return to pathological patterns. After completing missing education grades, Damian joined the 'Trampoline' program. Now Damian is 20 years old, attending the last class of Sports High School, preparing for final exams. His dream is to study at the Warsaw Academy of Special Education to be able to help those who have similar childhood and pathological backgrounds. His biggest challenge now is to complete the full process of social reintegration, and on his way towards autonomy to find a decent place to live.

What do the volunteers say?

"I have always wanted to help others but could never find time off from work. Thanks to Habitat, I was able to fulfill my deep need for giving back to the less fortunate and become a better person."

- Corporate volunteer, Daimler

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

Contact

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