



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 South African families as we build thriving and sustainable communities together.

SOUTH AFRICA

Building together for a brighter future

Over the past two decades, urban housing for the low-income sector has battled to keep pace with rapid population growth and ongoing urbanization in South Africa. Approximately 3 million Government subsidized housing units have been constructed, giving 12.5 million South Africans access to formal housing. Despite these efforts, there remains a huge housing backlog and, since many of the houses were constructed far from the economic urban centers, many people have relocated to informal settlements to be closer to employment. Informal settlements on urban peripheries have grown rapidly over this period. An estimated 2 million people live with poor access to basic infrastructure and services such as roads, water and sanitation. While providing a home addresses the immediate need for decent shelter, this cannot be built in isolation from employment, public transport, social services and a supportive environment. In response to these challenges, Habitat for Humanity South Africa has expanded its core focus from building individual houses to building entire involved communities.

Habitat facts

Families served:
more than 8,000

Construction types:
New homes
Renovations
Community Building
Activities

Hosting season:
February - November

Location:
Cape Town, Guateng

Team size:
10-100 volunteers

Number of volunteers hosted:
more than 264,000

Did you know

There are 11 official languages in South Africa.

South Africa has produced 7 Nobel Prize winners.

South Africa has more animal species than North and South America combined, or Europe and Asia together.



BLUEPRINT FOR VOLUNTEERING

Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program



Logistics

How to get there

We are currently offering volunteering opportunities in Cape Town and Gauteng. Projects can be accessed easily, within one and a half hours, from the Cape Town international airport.

Transportation

Vehicles are chosen in relation to the size of the group and accessibility to the various project sites. These range in size from 7 to 22 seater vehicles, are fully licensed and all vehicles have safety belts.

Lodging

We are able to cater a wide range of options from the relatively basic, hostel style accommodation right up to 3 or 4 star corporate accommodation. All accommodations are chosen carefully and are safe and comfortable.

Food and water

Volunteers will be served three meals per day (lunch on site) and bottled water at all times.



Meet a Habitat family

Prior to moving into her new home in Pelican Park in 2014, Gail and her family were forced to move from place to place for many years. Their lives were constantly disrupted by the endless moving, and the areas they lived in were often riddled with gang and criminal activity. Gail's tireless efforts to attend night school, work full-time, and support her children paid off when, after attending several Homeowner Education workshops facilitated by Habitat for Humanity and the City of Cape Town, Gail joyfully learned that she had been chosen to help build her own home in Habitat's Nelson Mandela Team Build Event.

Since moving into her new home, Gail has become an active and confident leader in the Pelican Park Owners Association (PPOA). She attends Habitat's workshops on homeownership and leadership development and believes it has made her stronger and wiser: *"The workshops changed my thinking about how people see me... working with the people, you feel something building up inside of you, a sense of confidence... I am confident in myself, I know that I can do anything."* Gail has made friends and feels a sense of belonging in her new community: *"...we are like a family. Now you know you belong somewhere, and now you know you can make a change in someone's life."*

What do the volunteers say?

"The biggest lesson we have learned in South Africa was modeled by the children of Pelican Park. They had so much joy in their hearts, even though their surroundings were not the best. So the next time you find yourself getting mad or angry, remember to find the joy in every situation".

- Fred Brewer's team

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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