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 Hungarian families in need of a simple, decent place to live. You might just find your own life changed as well. Habitat for Humanity Hungary is counting on volunteers from March to the end of October in various renovation projects involving families in difficult situations and individuals from vulnerable groups.

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. Behind the many positive reforms, overcrowded housing without proper sanitation is still the reality for too many low income families in Hungary.

From 2009 to 2012, poverty has increased from 14 percent of the population to 17 percent (1.4 million to 1.7 million). An additional 14 percent of the population is at risk of sliding into poverty. There is an estimated number of 30,000 homeless persons in Hungary, however shelter is only provided for 10,000 people. People left out of state care system have no other choice than to live on the street, in self-built temporary shacks, or other places (e.g. cellars, abandoned buildings etc.) that are not suitable for living. Habitat Hungary works with local municipalities and partner NGO’s to help homeless individuals or families who are living in these conditions, to move into social rental apartments.

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.

The Hungarian wine Tokay was described on Louis XIV’s wine list as the “wine of kings and king of wines”.

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

HABITAT FACTS

Families served: more than 2,200
Construction types: Renovations (typically thermal insulation)
Hosting season: mid March - mid October
Team size: 6 - 15 volunteers
Number of volunteers hosted: more than 2,500
HUNGARY

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 that is also used for daily transportation from the hotel to the work site and back.

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.

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.”

MEET A HABITAT FAMILY

Judit is a widow living with her younger son Gergő in Berkenye. The family had started to build the home of their dreams many years ago—until they ran out of money. After her husband’s unexpected death, Judit and Gergő moved into the unfinished house. As there was no insulation on the walls and heating costs are very high, they would only heat one room to 60-64°F in the winter. Judit was close to tears when she learnt she was going to be one of the families Habitat was going to help. The family’s house has been insulated with the help of international and Hungarian volunteer teams. “Thanks to all of you from the bottom of my heart, words cannot express how grateful we are, God bless you all”, Judit thanked the teams.

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