

Message from the National Director

Thank you for Supporting Us,

Dear Friends,

June marks the end of our financial year and July 1st the beginning of our new financial year, so you will be quite in order to wish us a happy new year, albeit financial!

I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your continuous support that has made this year a very successful one for Habitat for Humanity Kenya. Do allow me to highlight three key achievements that we have experienced in the course of the year.

▶ **The Internally Displaced Persons Project in Maai Mahiu**

In early July 2009, we started work on resettling persons who had been displaced by the post-election violence that was experienced in Kenya in late 2007 and early 2008. As a result of the violence, 630,000 families were displaced and 1,300 people killed. With your generous support, we have been working with a group of 335 families that have made the difficult decision of settling in a totally new geographical location in order to avoid the cycle of violence that has visited them since 1992. Our initial target was to settle 120 families from Habitat for Humanity fund, but with your generous support, we have been able to settle 170 families, 50 more families than we had planned for! We now have the achievable challenge of resettling 165 more families that are still in tents and we believe, with your support, this challenge is surmountable.

We have been encouraged by your visits to the internally displaced persons camp and your concern and donations that have enabled us build houses and restore hope to these very deserving families. In this new financial year, we shall be undertaking various fundraising initiatives to enable us resettle the balance of the families and we are confident that we can count on your support and participation.



Joyce in her farm in Maai Mahiu IDP camp. Far behind her, are HFHK completed IDP Houses.

To all of you who have prayed, given or even come to build for the families, we say a big thank you. You have built a house and restored hope to a family that was in urgent need of both a house and hope and your contribution has enabled 170 families reconstruct their lives and start afresh.

▶ **Housing Microfinance Project**

We are still basking in the accolades that we continue to receive for successfully reaching 1580 families with housing finance solutions tailored to meet the needs of families with low and seasonal incomes. The housing microfinance project grew by 240% from last year! Again, this would not have been possible without your generous support and we want to thank you most sincerely for enabling us achieve this result.

As a result of your support, 1580 families have started housing construction and some of them have moved from the first loan that enables them to put down the foundation of a house, to a second loan that enables them to complete the structure of the house and move into the house! We are confident that in the next one year, a greater percentage of these families will have

completed their houses and will be living in warm, durable, well ventilated homes.

I am pleased to note that our housing microfinance approach provides families with small incremental loans that they can easily pay off and which are more affordable and convenient. As a result, we have experienced excellent repayment rates of up to 98%, a clear testimony to the affordability and convenience of our housing microfinance product.

Since the housing need in Kenya is great, we have set ourselves an even more ambitious target of providing 2600 families with housing microfinance loans in this financial year and we are confident that with your support, we will achieve and even surpass this target!

▶ **Global Village Teams**

We have had the privilege of hosting 14 teams in the last one year and I do want to thank each and every person who created the time and gave of their finances to come and live and build with our many housing microfinance groups. We are keenly aware that the economic environment back in the United States, Canada and Europe has been uncertain and the sacrifices that GV team members make to come even with these uncertainties are very much appreciated.

I had the privilege of meeting almost all the teams that came into the country and my promise to them was that the only way we as the Kenyan community can give back is by making sure that the cultural interactions with the communities will be worth their while, and indeed many have reported back of the joys of being immersed in a different culture for a week or two and having to learn how to do things differently. I believe new friends have been made and global worldviews enlarged and that these experiences will stand out for all the teams that visited in very good stead in years to come.

I want to thank specifically the following Global Village teams that we had the privilege of hosting:

- ▶ Caroline/Simon and team from United Kingdom



Members of Connie Kwok's team put up a wall for a low income family in Maua.

Our biggest challenge for the year is settling the 165 internally displaced families still living in tents.

- ▶ Bilad Zahid and team from N. Ireland
- ▶ Babette Ford and team from USA
- ▶ Ian Brown and team from Great Britain
- ▶ Adrienne Wilson and team from USA
- ▶ Richard Jones and team from Great Britain
- ▶ Nicola Marfleet and team from United Kingdom
- ▶ Shiela and team from USA
- ▶ Rick/Suzanne and team from Canada
- ▶ Nicholas Bates team from UAE
- ▶ Matthew Rivard and team from Canada
- ▶ Steven Crandell and team from UAE
- ▶ Alastair Mack and team from Saudi Arabia
- ▶ Carrie Jones and team from Canada

Thank you for coming and if you happen to be in this part of the world, we will be more than happy to see you again!

For those of you who are contemplating joining a GV team and coming to Kenya, we encourage you to do so. Come and experience the warmth of the Kenyan people! It is one trip we are sure you won't regret.

▶ **Looking Ahead- An Invitation to Partnership!**

Our biggest challenge for the year is settling the 165 internally displaced families still living in tents. We are confident that it is possible to settle them and invite you to continue partnering with us in this noble cause.

I do wish to thank you most sincerely for your support that has enabled us achieve the very good results of the last financial year.

Asanteni sana

Global Village Team Trip

Experience of a Global Volunteer



Written By Harley Yettru

A USA Global Open team takes a pose after digging a house foundation for a home beneficiary in Kisii.

Before I embarked on my much anticipated trip to Kenya with a USA Global Village team, someone told me that I should hold back all expectations, and should not compare anything to the life I know in America. So I tried my best to do just that.

On the first day of the build, we were greeted to a warm reception from the homeowners, the HFHK representatives and the community members. I knew it was going to be an amazing week. "Jambo! Welcome! Karibu! Africa! Kenya!" These were the common words that greeted us during the one week of build in Kisii.

Our role was to start the construction of a house which should be completed by December. We had no idea what our work was going to entail, but we were ready for anything. Soon we found out it would be a lot of shoveling rocks and sand, moving boulders, and mixing mortar for the foundation of the house. We spent five days digging and shoveling the hard rocks and sand. We also dug away at something bigger, the boundary between our team and the Kenyans working side by side with us. Each day presented its challenges and provided opportunities for bringing down the walls of our different cultures. If English was not a common language, we found ways to communicate – through motion, through dance and through smiles.

Overall when asked what the best part of the trip was for me, my automatic answer is "the people." The people of Habitat, the people of the Kisii community, and the people of Kenya were absolutely fantastic. I have never met a group of people with such generosity, appreciation; love and welcoming as I did in Kenya, and I will never forget that. The people made this trip for me. The fact that we were able to work side by side with them at the work site was wonderful. My time in Kisii and my time working with the Habitat team was a "dream come true". I went in with no expectations, and came out more pleased and touched than I ever thought it would be possible. It was an incredible experience that I hope continues to help and touch those in need and those that offer to help.

Thank you all for making this happen!

A Roof and Renewed Hope for Maai Mahiu Internally Displaced Families!

Habitat for Humanity Kenya has continued to renew the hope of families that were displaced by the post-election violence that occurred in Kenya in later 2007 and 2008 after the disputed presidential elections of 2007.

During the simple handing over ceremonies of houses that HFH Kenya has conducted in conjunction with donors who have been available, families receiving the houses have expressed their heartfelt gratitude and cried tears of joy. They have explained how moving from their tattered tents to the new three roomed houses has renewed their hopes and placed them on a firmer ground of forging ahead with their lives.

A walk around the new homes shows signs of this renewed hope in the form of vegetable gardens planted around the homes and jovial children playing in the open field with little to worry about. They now have a house away from the cold that they had been used to while in the tents and can afford to do their school homework with ease.

To all who could not make it to the housing handing over ceremonies, we, on behalf of the homeowners, want to say thank you very much for transforming the lives of these hardworking and very resilient people.

We are slightly above the half way point as there are still another 165 units to be built but we are confident that with your support, we will house the remaining families.

Again, we say, asanteni sana to all our local and international donors who have provided the resources needed to restore hope and put a smile on a family's face.



Esther and her children tending their small vegetable plot in Maai Mahiu camp for internally displaced families.

HFH Kenya Scoops Best Practices Award!

In May 2010, Habitat for Humanity Kenya (HFHK) was among the major stakeholders in the housing sector that participated in an exhibition organized by the Ministry of Housing to show case best practices in the area of human settlement.

Best Practices are promoted and used by the United Nations, the International community and National Governments as a means of improving public policy. They are based on what works best in raising awareness of decision-makers at all levels and of the public in providing potential solutions to common social, economic and environmental problems. In addition, best practices encourage sharing and transfer of knowledge, expertise and experience through networking and peer-to-peer learning.

The Assistant Minister of State for Immigration and Registration of persons presided over the official opening ceremony on behalf of the Vice President Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka. Other dignitaries who graced the occasion included the Minister for Housing, Hon. Soita Shitanda and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Housing Mr Tirop Kosgey.

In his speech, Mr Tirop assured participants at the exhibition that the Government was determined to tackle all emerging and existing constraints to delivery of low cost housing for low income families with the view of addressing the challenge of rapidly emerging slums that continue to characterize urban areas in Kenya.



A jovial HFHK team and their Board Chairman, Mr.Koome Kiragu during the Best Practices Exhibition, Nairobi

HFH Kenya was recognized for its exemplary role in providing decent and affordable houses to over 4,500 families in Kenya. Awards were given to the best five performing exhibitors and HFH Kenya received the 1st runners up trophy for its exemplary work.

During the exhibition, the participants called on the Government to improve infrastructure which will in turn trigger development and help reduce the cost of housing construction. Mr Simon Nyabwengi, the National Director HFH Kenya thanked the Ministry of Housing on behalf of the exhibitors for providing stakeholders with a forum to learn, document and replicate best practices.

We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support in helping HFHK address poverty housing among low income families in Kenya!

Special thanks go to:

Local Corporates

- ▶ Imperial Bank Limited
- ▶ Middle East Bank Kenya Limited
- ▶ Housing Finance Company
- ▶ Eagle Africa Insurance Limited

Church

- ▶ Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA)
Headquarters Nairobi South

Individuals

- ▶ Caroline K
- ▶ Daisy N
- ▶ Racheal K
- ▶ Michael N
- ▶ Aaron K
- ▶ Charles M
- ▶ Antony M
- ▶ Evangeline N

- ▶ Lisa G
- ▶ Keith A
- ▶ Janice Segal
- ▶ Bruce & Sharon H
- ▶ Phylis B

International Partners

- ▶ All the Global Village Teams to Kenya
- ▶ Canada HFH
- ▶ Griffin Area HFH
- ▶ Macon Area HFH
- ▶ Mike and Cher Zerman (via HFHI)
- ▶ Seattle South King County, HFH
- ▶ South Sarasota County Inc, HFH
- ▶ Barry Segal Foundation
- ▶ Cincinnati HFH
- ▶ Kent School HFH
- ▶ Omaha HFH
- ▶ Northern Berk HFH
- ▶ Upper Yadkin Valley HFH
- ▶ Southern Eastern Steuben County HFH, Inc

We also want to appreciate our new partners Rotaract Club of Nairobi, Muthaiga and Milimani

Special Appeal

The cost of building a permanent decent house is Kshs 200,000/= (Approximately 2,667 USD)

A brick is Kshs 200 but any amounts are acceptable.

I want to support HFHK to address poverty housing among the Internally Displaced community in Maai Mahiu.

Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Postal Address: _____ Code: _____

Email: _____ Mobile No: _____

Preferred Payment Mode

- ▶ Cheque (Payable to Habitat for Humanity Kenya)
- ▶ Mpesa Through M- Pesa 506600
- ▶ Cash (We can arrange to pick your contribution from you and deliver a receipt)

Your contribution
made it possible for us to
resettle 170 IDP
families.