

Habitat

SINGAPORE

QUARTER 1
2019



Joining Forces for Good

by Yong Teck Meng

When I first started Habitat for Humanity Singapore, some one from my church asked me about how Habitat works. I told him that we bring together volunteers regardless of their race, language or religion; and serve people regardless of their race, language or religion. I shared with him how a certain corporation's executives came together to build a house in Batam. When he heard it, he was most dismayed. He said that if we were to ask those executives to surrender one day's worth of their salaries, we could hire local construction staff and build many more houses than just one house. He also said that he could get his construction workers to go to Batam and build another 300 houses, and when I asked him to go ahead, he replied, "Just kidding."

This person's reasoning sounds right, except that he did not know that Habitat for Humanity is not just about the house beneficiaries.

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仁人家园

Habitat
for Humanity®
Singapore

Habitat for Humanity Singapore's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Anchored by the conviction that safe and affordable housing provides a path out of poverty, Habitat for Humanity Singapore has been working alongside families and individuals with limited means to increase access to improved shelter since 2004. Its Global Village programme mobilises volunteers for house construction and disaster response projects in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2006, Project HomeWorks was started to improve the living conditions, safety and sanitation of a growing number of vulnerable elderly across the island. As an international nonprofit Christian housing organisation, Habitat for Humanity welcomes people of all races, religions and nationalities to partner in its mission.

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We are also about the volunteers. We believe that by bringing people together, not only would we be able to help the house beneficiaries get a decent house to call their own, we are also playing a role in the transformation of the volunteers. We believe that getting donors to give money is actually the easier thing to do; while getting them to be willing to spend time and physical effort is harder to do, but a great investment of our time and effort. We have seen many volunteers becoming more active in charitable work after participating in Habitat activities. Reading about poverty in a magazine or brochure is just totally different from being on the ground, working while seeing the impact of the work on house beneficiaries.

This gathering of volunteers would benefit our society beyond the recipient of that one house. We conduct special builds to advocate for other causes. For example, the "Women's Build" highlights gender equality, "CEO Build" encouraged top executives to combine their talents to benefit the world, and my personal favourite, "Inter-faith Build".

We conduct "Inter-faith Build" to bring together people of different religious affiliation to demonstrate that while we certainly have differences in religious belief, we can also celebrate our commonality in wanting to do good for the needy. The Build demonstrates clearly to the whole society that just because we differ significantly on religious matters, we do not have to blow each other up, and can still work together. This in my opinion, goes a long way in securing peace and harmony for everyone.

So for 2019, we want to do more of such specialised builds, to promote and preserve the peace we all often take for granted. Every time you participate in a Habitat event, you are actually making the same statement as well - that we all want to live in a world where every person has a decent place to call home.



So stop reading and sign up already!

Visit our [Message Board](#) for the latest volunteering opportunities and upcoming events!

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW



Together, we helped

451 FAMILIES

to achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance that comes from a safe & decent home.

In Asia Pacific,



63 houses

were built across the region for families in need



596 volunteers

worked alongside us to meet the global need for decent housing



In Singapore,



388 homes

were made cleaner & healthier for vulnerable families & elderly



3,501 volunteers

lent their hearts & hands to create change in their communities

Strong Women, laying Strong Foundations



8-9 March 2019

Habitat for Humanity Singapore would like to invite empowered women from various backgrounds to join us for a special home-building project, on International Women's Day 2019.

You will spend two meaningful days building alongside female homeowners in Batam and women who believe in our cause.

Research shows that rural women can bring about sustainable development by growing the economy, protecting the environment and improving lives in their community. However, these outcomes are only possible when women are given equal opportunities. You can empower a woman in Batam to own a home and lift her family out of poverty. Come build with us and transform lives!



Sample Itinerary

All timing in Batam local time unless indicated. Batam is one hour behind Singapore.

8 March

- Depart on 8am ferry (SG time)
- Transfer from Batam ferry terminal to build site
- Building from 10.30am - 4pm *
- Return to Swiss Bell Hotel for dinner and R&R

9 March

- Depart from Swiss Bell Hotel at 8am
- Building from 9.00am - 3pm *
- Transfer to Batam ferry terminal
- Depart by 5pm
- Arrive in Singapore by 7pm (SG time)

*lunch, water and snack breaks included at build site.

Participation Cost

Per person: \$900

(covers all in-country meals, transport, accommodations and 2-way ferry)

Team fundraising target: \$6,500

(Group donation for 10 pax to contribute towards the cost of required building materials.)

If you are:

- Female aged above 16 years old
- Reasonably healthy
- Ready to get your hands dirty
- Keen to change lives for the better.
- Excited to network with like-minded women

We invite you to apply!

Interested? Contact us at: info@habitat.org.sg.

Applications close on **28 January 2019**

Crossing borders, crossing faiths

Habitat Singapore's first Inter-faith youth team build



Put faith into action. It's a simple statement that Habitat demonstrates every single day with our commitment to helping and working with everyone regardless of their backgrounds. It's also that same belief that compelled us to bring together youths from various faiths to put together Habitat Singapore's very first Inter-Faith Youth Build Team.

In the course of 2 days, the team helped to hand-mixed cement to form the skeleton structure of the house and tie reinforcement bars that would hold up the soon-to-be-built walls.



9 Passionate youth comprising Buddhists, Christians, Hindus and a Free-thinker

1 common goal to uplift families from poverty

Kabil Village, Batam

7-8 December 2018



As we grow in our consciousness, there will be more compassion and more love, and then the barriers between people, between religions, between nations will begin to fall. Yes, we have to beat down the separateness."

- Ram Dass
(American Spiritual Leader)

HomeWorks Volunteer Reflection by Bridgette Gopal

I was leading a team of 9 on a painting and cleaning session for an elderly Chinese lady, whose husband had been hospitalised for a fall, and their intellectually disabled son in his forties who still lived with them. It was a Buddhist household complete with an altar in the corner. She had been trying to eradicate bedbugs from their home for 2 years by discarding the old bedding and pouring boiling water over the wooden bed-frames weekly. Apart from the bug infestation the house was beautifully clean and tidy despite the fact that our host was waiting for a knee replacement operation and must have been in constant pain.

During the day our lovely hostess offered us snacks and drinks as a thank you for our hard work. These were gratefully accepted by everyone with thanks as it was very hot, sweaty and tiring work trying to achieve so much in a short period of time. I stepped outside to take a quick break and the lovely Malay man on our team was offering his cakes to one of the girls who declined as she said she had already eaten enough. He said he couldn't eat the food he had been given. I took it from him and asked if it was because it wasn't Halal, he said yes and that he was sorry. I said he had nothing to be sorry for and thanked him for being so gracious to our host taking the food offered with thanks and not bringing it to her attention that he couldn't eat it. His respect to her was a gift.

There was no need for mention of the altar or checking if anyone had a problem with being there with it or found it offensive and we all just got on with the job we needed to get done. We chatted as we worked and got to know a little about why each person was there to help.



“It was a very multicultural and multi-religious group with Christians, Muslims and Buddhists, yet not even once was race or religion an issue. Something I have witnessed regularly since moving to Singapore and one of the things I really appreciate about living here.”



4 Singaporean Chinese
2 Singaporean Malays
1 New Zealander
1 Australian
1 French

We had a laugh with the son who was non-verbal but communicated by signalling with his hands. At one stage I was in the doorway of one of the bedrooms and our French student came out of the other bedroom and went out the front door, he looked at me and then her and held up 2 fingers. I laughed and said “yes there are 2 of us”, up to this point I believe he thought that we were the same person and there was only 1 western woman in his house. The similarity between us ended at pony tails and glasses, she was at least 25 years younger and 20 kilos lighter than me and gorgeous. I'd like to think she was just a slightly younger version of me but I won't be completely delusional.

I came away from the session feeling that I had witnessed so many examples of true tolerance between cultures, religions and abilities/disabilities and the experience still gives me a great feeling every time I think about it. The longer I live in Singapore the more I realise how wrong my, and many other countries have got it when it comes to dealing with differences in culture and religion. It's not about thinking about what not to do in case someone is offended. It's all about accepting our differences with no judgement and living side by side in harmony.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEER: DEBBIE TALBOT



Our volunteers are a valuable pool of supporters who help us improve the standard of living of families living in poor conditions. Our volunteers come from all walks of life, yet channel their time, talent and compassion towards the shared goal of uplifting the lives of the vulnerable. One key driver of Habitat's work on the ground is Debbie Talbot.

It was 10 years ago that Debbie first volunteered with Habitat Singapore. Her caring nature and passion to help others is evident to anyone who know her. As a Habitat supporter, Debbie has been a strong advocate for Habitat's vision. She has raised over \$160,000 through Helping Hands, Speakeasy Crew and the Australian International School Parents' Association. Debbie has volunteered in our local and overseas programmes by participating in 9 house building projects and 10 home cleaning sessions, and served on our Board of Directors. Debbie will be returning to Australia and we wanted to honour her work and dedication to our vision of a work where everyone has a decent and affordable place to live.

Thank you Debbie!!



**RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS FOR
OPEN TEAMS!**

GLOBAL VILLAGE BUILDS

1. Mar 2: Open team to Batam
2. Mar 31 - Apr 6: Open team to Cambodia
3. Apr 24-27: Couples' Build to Krabi
4. May 19-25: Open team to Nepal

[Sign up here](#)

habitat.org.sg/open-teams



Campus Chapter Achievements!

Congratulations to Raffles Chorale for raising \$1977.20 for Habitat Singapore's Raffles Institution Campus Chapter through a Fundraiser Concert on 15 December!

We are grateful for your support and generosity!

A Special Thank you! To Courts Asia Limited!



On 10 Nov 2018, COURTS Asia Limited threw a fantastic Back To the 80's Party to raise funds for Habitat For Humanity Singapore and Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore. No effort was spared to raise as much funds as possible. From silent to live auctions, raffle tickets, and even a dance number by COURTS Asia Limited CEO Terry O'Connor himself. Together with the support of their business and personal networks, COURTS raised an amazing total of \$132,257.61 for Habitat Singapore.



COURTS also graciously gave Habitat Singapore the space outside their Orchard outlet to fundraise from 30 Nov to 2 Dec. We thank COURTS for their strong and generous support to help us continue building strength, stability and self-reliance in Singapore and the region.



Thank You To Our Supporters!

Thank you to the following organisations for supporting Habitat for Humanity Singapore programmes in the fourth quarter of 2018. Your kindness and generosity help us achieve our vision of “a world where everyone has a decent place to live”.

- ACI Worldwide (Asia) Pte Ltd
- Anglo-Chinese School (International)
- Amadeus GDS Singapore Pte. Ltd.
- AppNexus
- Archer Recruitment Pte Ltd
- Australian International School Parents' Association (AISPA)
- Bloomberg L.P. (Singapore)
- Courts Asia Limited
- Dow Chemical Pacific (Singapore) Pte Ltd
- Dunman High School - Campus Chapter
- Far East Organization
- The Good Bean Consultancy Pte Ltd
- Grief Eastern Packaging Pte Ltd
- Helicap Pte Ltd
- International School Singapore
- Johnson & Johnson
- J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.
- KPMG Services Pte Ltd
- Legg Mason Asset Management Singapore Pte. Limited
- Levi Strauss Asia Pacific Division Pte Ltd
- M1 Limited
- MCI Group
- Methodist Girls' School
- MODEC Offshore Production Systems (Singapore) Pte Ltd
- Nanyang Technological University- Indonesian Students' Christian Fellowship (ISCF)
- National University of Singapore - Kent Ridge Hall
- Ngee Ann Muslim Students' Society
- Orica International Pte Ltd
- Raffles Institution - Campus Chapter
- Raffles Institution Junior College - Interact Club
- Salvation Army
- SAP Asia Pte Ltd
- SG Cares
- SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC)
- Singapore University of Technology and Design-Campus Chapter
- Singapore Management University - Campus Chapter
- South 32 Marketing Pte Ltd
- Tableau Foundation
- Tanglin Trust School
- Teleflex Medical Asia Pte Ltd
- TOTO Asia Oceania Pte Ltd
- UPS Asia Group Pte Ltd
- Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo
- Yio Chu Kang Chapel
- Zendesk Singapore Pte Ltd



Become a HopeBuilder

Your contributions mean that our work continues, and more households can attain a safe, affordable place to call home.

As a HopeBuilder, you will enjoy:

- Hassle-free, automatic donation payment from your bank account
- The knowledge that your donation is put to work immediately
- The ability to change or suspend your donation at any time

Start giving today!

To become a HopeBuilder today, complete the form on the last page, scan and email the completed form to info@habitat.org.sg

Come work with us

We're looking for interns who share our vision

Over the last 14 years, we've constantly pushed the envelope, expanding and adapting to meet the pressing needs of our community. We do this to build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter and realise our vision for a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

If you're interested to join us and be part of our exciting and meaningful ministry, please visit our [Careers page](#).

DONATIONS

Habitat for Humanity Singapore is a non-profit organisation and relies entirely on donations and support from corporations and individuals to sustain our programmes. Habitat for Humanity Singapore is an Institute of Public Character (IPC) and issues tax-exempt receipts for donations that benefit Singaporeans.

To make a donation, write a cheque made payable to “Habitat for Humanity Singapore”. Include your name, contact number, address and “donation” on the back of the cheque. Cheques can be mailed to the Habitat for Humanity Singapore Office listed below.

You can also make a credit card donation at giving.sg.



Tell us your story!

Got a story, photo or quote about your volunteering experience with us? Tell us and we could publish it in our next newsletter!

Please send your submissions to Saira at saira@habitat.org.sg

Follow us  

‘Like’ our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages and tag us in your build or Project HomeWorks photos! This will help more people learn about our work and expand our radius of impact.

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SINGAPORE

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<http://twitter.com/hfhsg>

Application Form for InterBank GIRO

自动转账申请表格

Donor's information 捐款者资料

Date: Beneficiary: **Habitat for Humanity Singapore**
日期: 受惠机构: 新加坡仁人家园

To: (Name of Bank) Donor's Name:
银行: 捐款者:

Branch: Donor's NRIC/FIN:
分行: 捐款者身份证号码:

- a. I/We hereby instruct you to process Habitat for Humanity Singapore's instructions to debit my/our account.
b. You are entitled to reject Habitat for Humanity Singapore's debit instruction if my/our account does not have sufficient funds and charge me/us a fee for this. You may also at your discretion allow the debit even if this results in an overdraft on the account and impose charges accordingly.
c. This authorisation will remain in force until terminated by your written notice sent to my/our address last known to you or upon receipt of my/our written revocation through Habitat for Humanity Singapore
d. It is Habitat for Humanity Singapore's responsibility to inform banks upon the expiry of this authorisation and to ensure no deductions are made thereafter.
e. The GIRO deduction will be made on the 15th of every month, or the following business day if 15th is a Sunday or public holiday.

My/Our Name(s) (Account holder's name):
姓名(银行纪录为准):

My/Our thumbprint(s)/Signature(s)**:
指纹/签名:

Monthly deduction amount (S\$): 每月扣除额:
[] S\$10 [] S\$25 [] S\$50 [] S\$100

Other amount 其他数额: _____

My/Our Bank Account Number 银行户口号码:

** For thumbprints, please go to the branch with your identification
若是指纹, 请携带身份证到银行分行澄清。

Address 地址: _____

Contact Number 联络号码: _____ Email 电邮: _____

For Habitat for Humanity Singapore 仁人家园填写部分		
Bank 银行	Branch 分行	Habitat Account Number 仁人家园户口号码
7339501839898001		
Bank 银行	Branch 分行	Account No. to be debited 扣除户口号码
Donor's ref number:		
Remarks:		

For the Financial Institution

财务公司填写部分

To: Habitat for Humanity Singapore

This application is hereby rejected for the following reason(s):

- [] Signature/thumbprint differs from our records [] Signature/thumbprint incomplete/unclear
[] Account operated by signature/thumbprint [] Wrong account number [] Amendments not countersigned by donor
[] Others: _____

Name of approving officer

Authorised signature

Date

Monthly Credit Card:

每月信用卡:

I am willing to donate the following

我愿意做以下的捐助

Make a financial donation by credit card 以信用卡做捐献: Credit card type 信用卡: [] VISA [] Mastercard

[] Monthly contribution of 每月捐献: [] S\$10 [] S\$25 [] S\$50 [] S\$100 [] Other amount 其他: _____

[] One-time credit card contribution of 一次信用卡捐献款额 S\$ _____ *

Card number 信用卡号码

Expiry date 截止日期

Cardholder's signature 信用卡上签名

Name on card 信用卡上姓名

Phone 电话

NRIC (for auto tax exemption) 身份证号码 (自动免税申请)

Address 地址: _____

Postal district 邮区: _____ Country 国家: _____ Email 电邮: _____

OTHERS/其他 [] One-time contribution of cash/cheque 一次现金/支票捐献款额 S\$ _____ *

(Please fill in your particulars above; 请在上填写个人资料)

Bank 银行: _____ Cheque # 支票号码: _____ (Please make cheque payable to 支票请注明: "Habitat for Humanity Singapore")

*We appreciate your 1-time gift; do note that 1-time givers are not considered as HopeBuilders. *感谢您的 once 捐款。一次捐款者不在[希望工程师]行列中。

Send this form back to: Habitat for Humanity Singapore, 56 Lorong 23 Geylang, #05-00, Singapore 388381 or fax to: (+65) 6844 5383 (only for credit card; GIRO original needed)