

UK Focus: Bringing charity home...



We envisage a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. In the UK, Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with public, voluntary and private sector organisations to build both affordable homes and local community.

Making homes affordable

The UK is currently experiencing a severe housing crisis. Most commentators would agree that we need to be building at least 230,000 homes every year, but currently only about 100,000 are being completed annually. The result of this is unaffordable house prices and rents, and consequently increasing pressure on providers of affordable housing.

As a charity who promote the importance of the home, Habitat for Humanity seeks to address this situation by empowering people to become part of the solution and engage in building homes for themselves, or for others in need of housing. We have wide experience in managing unskilled voluntary labour on construction sites alongside certified trades and sub-contractors to achieve a high quality of workmanship.

Partnership working

We regularly work with established housing providers, local authorities, other charities and community groups with similar aims. These partnerships are a key part of our approach to finding appropriate solutions. We are also able to draw on additional funding from our wide network of corporate and individual supporters to benefit the projects undertaken.



This development of 12 flats in Peckham was completed in 2009 using a total of 1500 volunteer days on site. A housing association now owns and manages these as social housing for local tenants.



Our work in the UK...

Empty houses to homes

In a time of serious housing need, empty property is a waste and can be a blight on local communities. We have developed a scheme to bring empty properties back into use - particularly those in need of substantial repair. Offering a complete service to the owner, we work with volunteers and trainees on site to repair the property to a decent standard and then rent it at an affordable rate as a safe, healthy home.

On-site training

Since 2000, we have provided 38 new affordable homes in London and Banbury which are managed by housing association partners under their local schemes. When we build new homes in a community, we use the building programme to gain further benefits, such as training for disadvantaged youth on site. Our 10-flat scheme in Banbury (*pictured right*) involved 18 young people who were not in education, employment or training. In partnership with the District Council, Sanctuary Housing Association and the local college we developed a training scheme enabling the majority of trainees to move into employment or further training opportunities.

Community projects

We partner with volunteers to improve facilities belonging to charities who are supporting people in housing need and homelessness. These projects are self-funding through the volunteering donations and sponsorship we receive so we are able to offer this as a free service to the organisations we are helping. We have recently completed refurbishment and improvement programmes for the YMCA, Solace Womens' Aid, Charlie Chaplin's Adventure playground (*pictured below*), and the construction of a purpose-built soup kitchen run by a central London church.

Our projects reflect the diverse ways we seek to build both homes and community in the UK.



Donaldson Court in Banbury was completed in February 2012 and provides 10 homes for people in local housing need.



Getting involved

There are upcoming opportunities in 2013 for individuals, groups or corporate teams to help us on projects:

- **Volunteering on site**

We welcome a wide range of corporate and community volunteers on our sites. Please contact **Diane Regan, Corporate Relations** for more details on planned projects (diane.regan@shfh.org.uk / 020 7732 0066).

- **Sponsorship**

Individual donations and corporate sponsorship help to deliver our projects and programmes. We also receive donated goods and materials for projects. For further details visit www.HabitatforHumanityGBHomes.org.uk (or call 020 7732 0066).

- **New project opportunities**

We are always looking for more suitable projects and a wider set of skilled partners to work with. Please contact **David Clare, Business Development Manager** for further discussion (david.clare@shfh.org.uk / 020 7732 0066).

The focus of this leaflet is on our UK projects. To find out how you can support Habitat for Humanity's international work, please visit www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk