



♥ Happy Valentine's Day! ♥

As we celebrate Valentine's Day this year and think of our loved ones near and far, at Habitat we are asking ourselves how to spread the love to those who are once again or isolated from their loved ones. For many of us in Hong Kong, the latest wave of COVID-19 is forcing all of us to spend more time at home. The challenge we are faced with is how to keep our home partners safe, but at the same time stay connected with them at a time when the elderly and vulnerable people we serve, need our support the most.

As we once again work from home and put slippers on to keep our feet warm, our hearts go out to the thousands of elderly people living in public housing estates who don't have proper ventilation or windows to regulate the temperature.

As we keep up to date with the evolving restrictions and understand that home-isolation will soon become our reality, our hearts go out to the families living in subdivided units where home isolation is simply not an option.

As we hug our loved ones in the comfort and safety of our homes, our hearts go out to all the people in Hong Kong who don't have access to a safe and hygienic home.

A home is more than just having a roof over your head. Home is safety and security. Home is health. Home is love. And home is an opportunity for a better future.

The latest Long-Term Housing Strategy Report shows that the number of people living in subdivided flats was on the rise in 2021, up 3.6% from 2020. There are around 127,100 inadequately housed households, up 4.1% from 2020. We are compelled to ask for your help to reverse this trend.

Our heart goes out to you, our wonderful supporters. Please share this message on your social media platforms. Become a voice for the cause of decent housing for all and help us to connect with more hearts in the community. We are deeply grateful for your continued support at this critical time. If you are not yet a [monthly donor](#), please consider becoming one today and sharing your love with the Hong Kong community. Every little helps us to work towards our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Thank you – from the bottom of my heart.

Jo Hayes  
CEO  
Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong



**Voices of volunteers**

Ms. Kwan, a local nursing student, volunteered at one of our Project Home Works programme before the fifth wave. After a day of renovation, painting, and cleaning, she reflected, "I feel very happy knowing that I helped someone".

She shared her most memorable moment with us, "Lee Popo shared her own personal story with me and told me that she was glad that she did not give up on herself. It made me reflect on my own life, and it made me realize that I should treasure the life I have now". We are glad that Ms. Kwan was able to connect with Lee Popo and have meaningful conversations during the renovation process.

Thank you, Ms. Kwan for your enthusiasm and hard work of the day. We are thrilled to see more young leaders helping our local community.



**Our local impact**

Happy 75th anniversary to Turner & Townsend!

We were so excited to welcome volunteers from Turner & Townsend for our Project School Works programme as part of their 75th anniversary celebrations before Christmas. Their hard-working team worked alongside students to paint beautiful murals at Fortress Hill Methodist Secondary School in North Point. A huge thank you for your continued support and congratulations on celebrating 75 years!

**More volunteer stories**

**More Habitat updates**



**Our global impact**

On January 26, Habitat for Humanity International hosted the latest live conversation in their +You: Building the Beloved Community thought leadership series to mark this year's National Day of Service. This virtual event showcased the impact service and volunteerism can have in uniting communities and responding to society's most urgent challenges. The conversation emphasized the importance of engaging young leaders to address systemic inequities to build a better future and create the Beloved Community of Dr. Martin Luther King's dream.

[Watch the latest conversation here](#)



**Together, we build a better future**

The Habitat Hong Kong team were thrilled to host our first ever virtual human library event this month! We had insightful discussions about the double ageing phenomenon in Hong Kong and learnt about the lived experience of "Intergenerational co-living". We loved hearing from our four "human books" – Megan Parker, Ann Langer, Dr. Soumeiya Abed, and Tafadzwa Machipisa. Thank you for sharing your stories. Lastly, thank you to all our young leaders who turned into the event; your actions can make a huge difference in the local community.

[Watch our virtual event here](#)



**Habitat for Humanity remembers Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

Habitat for Humanity mourns the loss of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a human rights champion and passionate supporter of a vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. [Read more about Mr. Tutu](#)

**Housing in the news**

**In Hong Kong**

- Hong Kong homebuyers swoop in on small flats at 2022's first weekend sale ([South China Morning Post](#))
- Rental control for Hong Kong's 110,000 partition flats to take effect on Jan 22 ([The Standard](#))
- Push for more public flats to be sold at lower prices ([The Standard](#))
- Hong Kong mass housing price growth to hit up to 3% this year ([Real Estate Asia](#))
- Land shortage exceeds government estimate of 1200 hectares ([Hong Kong Business](#))

**In Asia**

- Why are Asian property investors repurposing old buildings during Covid-19? ([South China Morning Post](#))
- Whirlpool Corporation sponsored Habitat for Humanity Asia Pacific Housing Forum focused on building resilient cities and communities ([yahoolfinance](#))
- Taiwan boosts affordable social housing by converting hotels to homes ([The Straits Times](#))

**Around the world**

- Comparing social housing: 30 projects from countries around the world ([ArchDaily](#))
- Habitat for Humanity debuts first completed home constructed via 3d printer ([Architectural Digest](#))
- This new ultraefficient Habitat for Humanity house is also easy for volunteers to assemble. ([Fast Company](#))

**How you can support**



**Become a monthly donor now**

We believe adequate and affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities. Together we build hope and pride! Please help us to achieve our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Monthly donations help us to be a sustainable organisation and enable us to plan ahead.



**Yes, I want to join!**

Habitat Hong Kong provides free home cleaning, repair, and renovation services for elderly and low-income families, to provide a healthy, safe and sanitary home. You can join us to provide these families with a decent place to live, be our volunteer now! "Our volunteer activities are suspended due to current pandemic situation, while new registration is welcome. We will contact you when volunteer activities resumed.



**Yes I want to lend a hand!**

Habitat for Humanity Youth Leaders Build brings together youth from across the Asia-Pacific region to support people and families in need of decent housing. We will bring young leaders and volunteers together in Hong Kong, to learn about double ageing in Hong Kong, inter-generational co-living and raise funds to support vulnerable elderly people living in substandard housing. We aim to raise a minimum of HK\$117,000, to provide a safe and clean home for at least 25 elderly people living in substandard housing. We can only do it with your support!

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