



Happy International Day of Charity!

Did you know that 5th September is a day of celebration? A quick internet search will tell you that around the world, there are people are celebrating World Cheese Pizza Day and World Samosa Day, for some September 5th is 'Be Late For Something Day'! At Habitat Hong Kong, we are celebrating The International Day of Charity. This day was set up by the United Nations in memory of Mother Teresa, to engage people in helping others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.

On International Day of Charity, we give special thanks to all of our volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to connect with your community, develop new skills and receive a sense of fulfilment. Habitat brings volunteers and partner families together in Hong Kong and all around the world to provide safe and sanitary homes. Habitat volunteers also play a key role in being advocates for the cause of adequate and affordable housing by telling their friends and families why they dedicate time in their busy schedules to help others in need.

After a COVID created pause, we were able to re-launch our Project Home Works a few months ago and we're excited to announce that we have finally re-started our Project School Works. Despite the torrential rain, I was so happy to join a group of dedicated and very artistic primary students and Bloomberg volunteers last month, to paint some amazing murals at The Endeavourers Leung Lee Sau Yu Memorial Primary School in Shau Kei Wan. The school was so pleased with the newly painted walls, and one of our skill-based volunteers made this video!

We are grateful to be back with volunteers in local primary and secondary schools, helping to improve the learning environment for Hong Kong's youth. We recognise that school can be like a second home for children and Project School Works provides a platform to raise awareness of housing needs in the community.

So how are you going to celebrate International Day of Charity? Are you going to eat cheese pizza? Are you going to eat samosas? Whatever you do, try not to be too late in signing up to become a Habitat volunteer!

Thank you,
Jo Hayes
CEO Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong

[Sign up to be our volunteer](#)



Voices of volunteers

"Recently, alongside a wonderful group of people, I joined Project Home Works. We were able to get out of our offices and our corporate gear and to put on (with pride!) the Habitat T-shirt and get to work helping a wheelchair-bound lady living in low-income housing. We spent a day redoing her kitchen and bathroom ceilings which were cracking and falling off.

Whilst physically it was hard, mentally and emotionally it was the best thing I could have done (selfishly) for myself!

I encourage everyone to think more broadly about what self-care could look like and how supporting the community could be a powerful and impactful means of self and community care."

- Alisha Fernando / Corporate Volunteer

[Read her volunteer sharing](#)



Our local impact

With just simple refurbishment works, our elderly home partners can have a safe and pleasant living environment. Recently, we recruited a group of volunteers to visit elderly families in Oi Man Estate, Ho Man Tin and renovate their homes. Under the guidance of our licensed contractors, our volunteers learnt to do the light renovation work quickly! After that, we arranged for a group of local domestic workers to deep clean the homes. A huge thank you to our "Sifu", volunteers and local domestic workers! Your support enables our home partners to enjoy safer and more hygienic housing conditions.

In July and August, we renovated 22 and cleaned 85 homes in our local communities!

[Explore the stories at Oi Man Estate](#)



Our global impact

Habitat for Humanity crews have fanned out in Haiti's southwestern peninsula to survey homes in the wake of a powerful earthquake that has killed at least 2,200 people and caused thousands of structures to crumble to the ground.

"Our teams have started surveying neighborhoods in the affected areas to help assess damage to homes, in coordination with the government and other humanitarian agencies," said Jean Frenel Tham, National Director of Habitat for Humanity Haiti. "Unfortunately, these structures – many with large openings on the ground floor, little or no reinforcements, and low-quality materials – often suffer serious damage in earthquakes. And, as we saw for far too many families on Saturday, they can collapse entirely."

Photo: ©Habitat for Humanity International / Nadia Todres

[Our response and immediate action in Haiti](#)



Together, we build a better future

"It has always been my pledge to use my musical gifts to serve the needy." Ms. Carol Yu, an internationally renowned pianist and Steinway Artist.

In 2017, Carol gave a 'Harmony of Hope' concert to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity's work in Cambodia and Bangladesh. We are grateful for her support again and for choosing Habitat Hong Kong to be the beneficiary charity of her award-winning students' concert this year. We will use the funds to help low-income families to have safe and hygienic homes. A massive thank you and congratulations to Carol and every talented young artist who performed on stage!

[Contact us for partnership opportunities](#)

Housing in the news

In Hong Kong

- Single public housing applicants 'face unfair system' ([RTHK](#))
- Hong Kong's rising number of homeless women struggle on the streets, sleeping rough, trying to make ends meet ([SCMP](#))
- Tenancy control on subdivided flats: a step forward, not long-term solution to Hong Kong's housing crisis ([SCMP](#))
- Hong Kong's housing crisis long blamed on land shortage, but are other factors at play? ([The Star](#))
- Elderly left behind in Hong Kong as families emigrate get help from charities ([SCMP](#))

In Asia

- Habitat for Humanity brings the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum to Thailand for the third time ([Asia-Pacific Housing Forum](#))

Around the world

- Haiti earthquake: Devastation and more than 2,000 dead ([BBC](#))
- Habitat for Humanity surveys homes amid destruction left by deadly earthquake in Haiti ([Habitat for Humanity](#))

Save the date



We are excited to announce that the Habitat Hong Kong Housing Forum is back! Join our live-streamed expert panel discussion on Monday, 4 October 2021. Our expert speakers will discuss how Hong Kong can increase inclusive access to adequate and affordable housing for vulnerable groups. Together we can explore what the private sector and public can do to help Hong Kong accelerate its progress towards SDG11! Stay tuned for more details.

How you can support



We believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities. Together we build hope and pride! Please help us to achieve the mission of everyone has a decent place to live.

[Become a monthly donor now](#)



Here's one of the murals from our first Project School Works this year. This is on a corridor wall. The team had to improvise due to the thunderstorm! We welcome local primary and secondary schools to partner with us. Please contact us for partnership opportunities!

[Take action now](#)



Great News! Habitat will join the sustainable business forum & solutions expo - ReThink HK 2021! Come and visit us in the NGO Lounge area on 5-6 October 2021 at HKCEC. We can't wait to see you there!

[Read more details](#)

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Contact us:
Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong
9/F, V-Point, 18 Tang Lung Street
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
enquiry@habitat.org.hk
+852 2520 4000