



仁人家園

Habitat
for Humanity
Singapore

Annual Report FY2019

1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019



Our vision

A world where everyone
has a decent place to live.



Our mission

Seeking to put God's love into action,
Habitat for Humanity brings people together
to build homes, communities and hope.

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Message from our National Director

By Yong Teck Meng, National Director, Habitat for Humanity Singapore

I have always found it quite unbelievable that it is time to write a reflection again on an annual report, because the year just went zooming by. I suppose this is because time flies when one is having fun! And indeed I am having the time of my life, working with a group of dedicated people. My staff, my volunteers and my board members are all united in the wish to make this world a better place. While we are of course not perfect, it gives me great pleasure to know that I am working with a group of people with like-mindedness, for goals that have measurable, tangible outcomes.

Together, we have accomplished much. Many people in Singapore, and in this region, will live a better life because of what we have all done as a team. From participating in garbage-picking in our UnLitter Red Dot, to house-cleaning in Project Homeworks, to house-building in our Global Village and Batam programmes, to running advocacy programmes large and small, I am certain that all these efforts will not be in vain. As I think of all the people involved, from older volunteers to very young people in our Campus Chapters, I am simply overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity to experience working together with all these wonderful people.

I am always reminded of two things - firstly, the need on the ground is seemingly never ending. While I was an entrepreneur many years ago, I used to wonder how to get more customers. This 'business' of charity however, has an endless supply of customers!

Second, it never fails to surprise me at how little it takes for one to make a difference. I always tell my staff, "It is not rocket science", because well, it is not. It does take the willingness to do something about our world, and the tenacity to see it through.

So let's make it happen! Make this world better this year than the last. We can do it!



Leading With The Heart



Our Patron

Mr. S. Dhanabalan

Habitat for Humanity Singapore is honoured to have Mr. S. Dhanabalan (ex-Chairman, Temasek Holdings; former Cabinet Minister) as our **patron**. Mr. Dhanabalan is an active Habitat volunteer, who has participated in Habitat builds and events regularly throughout the year. He continues to be a great source of inspiration and wisdom for Habitat staff and volunteers.



Our Senior Advisor

Mr. Philip Ng

Habitat for Humanity Singapore is blessed to have Mr. Philip Ng on board as our **Senior Advisor**. Mr. Ng has been an ardent supporter of Habitat Singapore's events, and continues to encourage many others to come alongside us in fighting to eradicate poverty in Singapore and in this region.

Our Board of Directors

Mr. Foo Chai Yee
(Chairman)
Associate Director, DP Architects

Mr. Choo Chin Tuan Theodore
(Vice-Chairman)
*Head, Corporate Marketing,
Singapore Management University*

Mr. Lim Cheng Huang
(Treasurer)
*Business Consultant,
Avodah Business Services*

Mr Chan Bing Hung, Ivan
CEO
Anxa Holdings

Ms. Sharon Cheah Ui-Hoon
*Associate Director
Kreab Singapore*

Ms Adeline Khoo
*Operations & Administrative Manager
Single Family Office*

Ms. Christine Lee Yip Yin
*Business Consultant and
Private Investor*

Mr. Thomas Lim
*General Manager
ACI HR Solutions*

Ms. Usha Murli Menon
*Executive Chairman,
Usha Menon Management Consultancy (Asia)*

Mr. Timothy Paul Nichols
*Vice-President - Project Management,
Pontiac Land Group*

Ms. Ng Siew Geck, Vincy
*Vice-President - Human Resources,
AMCOR Flexibles Asia Pacific*

Mr. Joseph Junior Scaria
*Resource Development Director,
Habitat for Humanity Asia-Pacific*

Our Board Advisors

Mr. Daniel See Han Chiang
*Associate General Counsel, Avnet
Technology Solutions, Asia Pacific*

Mr. Liew Tian Seng Alvin
*Senior Economist,
United Overseas Bank*

Mr. Tan Willie
*Deputy Head,
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office*

Our Board of Directors

Habitat for Humanity Singapore Board meeting attendance list						
Name	Aug 14 2018	Nov 8 2018	Feb 26 2019	June 4 2019	Remarks	
Foo Chai Yee			X	X		
Ivan Chan	X		X	X		
Sharon Cheah			X			
Ted Choo	X	X	X	X		
Adeline Khoo			X	X	Joined Feb 2019	
Kelly Lee	X				Resigned	
Lim Cheng Huang	X	X	X	X		
Christine Lee			X	X		
Alvin Liew	X				Rotated out	
Thomas Lim			X		Joined Feb 2019	
Usha Menon						
Tim Nichol						
Vincy Ng		X	X	X		
Joseph Scaria	X	X	X	X	Via Skype	
Daniel See	X				Rotated out	
Debbie Talbot		X			Resigned	
Willie Tan	X				Rotated out	
*** Please note that all Board members participated in many sub-committee meetings, strategic reviews, on-the-ground activities, etc. not reflected in this list. HFHSg appreciates their services.						

All members and the Board of Directors and staff adhere to Habitat for Humanity International's governance policies as well as policies of the Commissioner of Charities Singapore. These include procedures for Conflict of Interest declaration at board meetings and staff-related operations, Ethics and Code of Conduct, Whistle-blowing policies, and others.



**Building Homes.
Building Lives.**

About Habitat for Humanity Singapore

Habitat for Humanity Singapore is part of an international Christian housing charity, Habitat for Humanity International. Founded in 1976 by the late Millard Fuller in Georgia, USA, Habitat seeks to eliminate poverty housing worldwide.

Convicted that safe and affordable housing provides a part out of poverty, Habitat works alongside low-income families to increase their access to improved living conditions. Habitat for Humanity operates in over 70 countries and has helped more than 22 million people build or improve the place they call home.

We believe a decent home is much more than just bricks and mortar. It provides the foundation on which families can build brighter futures and grow stronger, self-sustaining communities.

Since its inception in 2004, Habitat Singapore regularly sends volunteer teams to build decent and affordable houses across Asia-Pacific. To date, almost 15,000 volunteers have helped to build over 1,400 houses in countries like Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Locally, volunteers dedicate their weekends to cleaning and transforming the homes of vulnerable persons and families. Over 3,100 homes have been made safer and healthier by more than 16,000 volunteers.

In March 2019, we celebrated 15 wonderful years of service and ministry.

Programme Strategy

Sources of Revenue

At Habitat Singapore, we rely on the generous support of the public, our corporate partners, grants and foundations to fund our work. Donations are received via the public through regular and ad-hoc giving and through management fees for overseas house-building trips. We adhere strictly to the relevant policies and laws relating to public fundraising, in accordance with the Charities Act, Singapore. Likewise, we comply with Habitat for Humanity International's requirements articulated in the covenantal MOU signed.

Habitat for Humanity Singapore does not solicit for funding from organisations that are associated with tobacco or the gambling industries.

We build a sustainable organisation by:	We improve housing conditions in Singapore by:	We partner to increase shelter access by:	We inspire action to end poverty housing by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobilising resources and steward them faithfully.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serving families through sustainable housing support services;• Leveraging shelter as a catalyst for community transformation;• Growing capacity to serve the most vulnerable segments of society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting market approaches that increase products, services and financing for affordable housing;• Promoting policies and systems that advance access to adequate, affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serving as a leading voice in growing awareness of housing as a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty; and• Mobilising volunteers as hearts, hands and voices for the cause of adequate, affordable housing.

Accountability and Accreditation

Habitat Singapore was set up on 12 February 2002 as a company limited by guarantee. It was officially opened on 11 March 2004 and registered as a charity on 27th April 2004. Charity Registration Number: 200201617W

Our full audited financial report for FY2019 is available [HERE](#).

Triple-Layer Accountability

Local: Habitat for Humanity Singapore's annual financial audit is conducted by Helmi Talib & Co. Habitat Singapore is also subjected to the financial supervision by the Commissioner of Charities, and complies with the requirements of the Code of Governance for Charities and Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs).

Regional: Quarterly financial reports for financial indicators review are also submitted to Habitat's Asia Pacific office to ensure financial and operational practices conform to Habitat International's policies.

International: At the highest level, all Habitat National Offices are also monitored and subjected to auditing by Habitat's headquarters in Atlanta, USA



For FY2019, we have the following annual remuneration bands for staff:	
Between S\$100,000 and S\$150,000	1
Between S\$50,000 and S\$100,000	3
None of the staff is related to any board members.	

FY2019 Impact Report

Through Shelter, We Empower.



57 Houses Built

for low-income families across Asia-Pacific



STRENGTH

A safe and decent home provides a family with a strong foundation on which they can build a brighter future. For our vulnerable elderly, a clean and safe home is free of disease-carrying pests and reduces their risk of falling.



363 Homes & 54 Estates Cleaned

for our vulnerable elderly to live out their golden years in dignity



STABILITY

Strong and stable homes result in resilient communities. Better, affordable living conditions lead to improved health, stronger childhood development and the ability — and financial flexibility — to make forward-looking choices.



5,080 Volunteers Mobilised

to work with us to provide decent homes for everyone



SELF-RELIANCE

Through shelter, we empower. A decent place to live and an affordable mortgage help homeowners save more, invest in education, pursue opportunities and have more financial stability. Our vulnerable elderly also have a decent home to age independently and with dignity.

About Global Village

Since its inception in 2004, Habitat for Humanity Singapore has been mobilising local volunteers to work with other Habitat offices internationally by participating in 1- to 7-day house-building trips.

Habitat Singapore has sent volunteers to countries in the Asia-Pacific region such as Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

When you join a Global Village build, the concentration of people - even for a short time - hugely accelerates the building schedule of our Habitat host affiliates in the building countries. The “muscle” volunteers provide also means homes can be built at considerably lower costs.

Every new home constructed for a family in need renews their hope for a secure future. Volunteers themselves gain a rich experience as they witness how their contribution meaningfully impacts the lives of the vulnerable and fights poverty.

In FY2019, 621 volunteers built 57 homes under our Global Village Programme.



Global Village Programme

STABILITY

Stability is something Mr Jun and his family had been missing in their lives for years. After slowly losing family member one by one over the years, Mr Jun has spent the last 10 years living with and being cared for by Orapin, his 37-year-old grand-daughter who suffers from Lupus.

In between medications, food and other basic necessities, Mr Jun and Orapin did not have enough money to repair and renovate their decaying home in Chiangmai, Thailand. To make ends meet, Orapin's 15-year-old son already had to drop out of formal education and studies at a community education center.

Getting accepted as a Habitat Thailand homeowner was a godsend, as Mr Jun knew they would never have been able to afford a safer home on their own.

In May this year, a volunteer team led by Habitat Singapore's very own Ambassador Carla Dunareanu arrived at the build site to turn Mr Jun's dreams of a new home into a reality. The team of 12 spent 2 full days hand-mixing cement, tying reinforcement bars and laying bricks to build the walls of the house.

A few weeks later, Mr Jun's new Habitat house was ready for the family to finally move into.

"It is more convenient and better as I do not have to walk up and down the stairs anymore. I can feel safe staying in this house because it has a door lock and a strong structure," said Mr Jun.



"This new house is my new life."

Mr Jun Saengmanee, 80, Habitat Thailand Homeowner

Batam Build

The Batam Build is designed as a shorter alternative 1- to 2-day build trip within our Global Village programme.

Since 2014, Habitat Singapore has been sending volunteers to Kabil Village on a weekly basis. Together with our team in Batam and future homeowners, we have built 956 houses to date.



“We hope our baby can live in a better home. It's been almost 1.5 years since her birth but we haven't been able to make her comfortable playing. Thank you (and) greetings to the team of volunteers who have taken care of us, I hope the volunteer team is in good health and in God's blessing.”

Mr Reno Setiawan, 29, Habitat Homeowner in Batam

About Grace for Cambodia Project

Our Grace for Cambodia Project is a 5-year project benefitting thousands of people (many of whom are HIV-positive and/or disabled from landmine explosions). Thanks to the generosity of Mr Philip Ng, the Grace for Cambodia Project implements activities in Battambang, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap to improve the living conditions of vulnerable families living in sub-standard housing.

In addition to building and improving houses, this project aims to provide solutions such as access to clean water, health and proper hygiene, sanitation & house maintenance training, financial and family planning education.

To date, 273 new houses have been built, 319 houses upgraded, and 126 houses repaired.

In addition, four water stations have been constructed, 23,776 individuals have received hygiene and sanitation training, and 743 families have received clean water filter distribution.



Grace for
Cambodia

About Project HomeWorks

Project HomeWorks is Habitat Singapore's local initiative where we work with vulnerable persons and families who need help to transform their homes into a safe and sanitary state.

Over the last 13 years, our Project HomeWorks volunteers have lent their time to help vulnerable individuals and families primarily living in one- and two-room rental flats.

Many of the vulnerable individuals we support through Project HomeWorks typically have little financial means and/or social support, as well as mobility issues that make it difficult to care for themselves, let alone their homes. We believe that no human being should live in unsafe or unhygienic environments.

A typical Project HomeWorks session involves making homes safer by reducing any potential fire hazards or could cause accidents like falls. Homes are also made cleaner by discarding expired food items and clearing pest-infested furniture to improve the health and well-being of the elderly or families we serve.

In FY2019, more than 2, 243 volunteers worked alongside us to transform 369 homes.



DIGNITY

"How did the house get to this state?" It's a common question from our volunteers. Vulnerability is not a state that anyone consciously crosses into overnight; it starts slow.

After years of working and caring for her 54-year-old daughter May Leng born with Cerebral Palsy, it was failing health that caught up with 77-year-old Mdm Chow.

Items piling up in both bedrooms for years left the mother-daughter duo sharing a sofa in the living room in their 3-room flat.

"I want to throw things but I have no strength and my hands are numb. I can't hold too heavy things. It always drops from hands onto the floor. I just wish my health is better," said Mdm Chow.

"When I was still working (as a cleaner), the house never used to be so messy," said the retiree. "We ended with only 1 sofa and I shared it with my daughter. I dare not move, the space was too small.. I would sleep for 3 hours only then have to wake up. It was not comfortable."

A little bit of support - and hope that things can improve - was all Mdm Chow needed to get going again. In November, volunteers helped to clear out both bedrooms and stamp out a small but growing bed bug infestation.

And it was the first time in decades that Mdm Chow and May Leng finally got to have their own beds, in their very own rooms.

At the very heart of Habitat's work is the belief that with a little help, families like Mdm Chow & May Leng all have the potential to stand on their own.



"It's because you helped me then now I have my personal space back. I can sleep better."

Mdm Chow, 78 & her daughter May Leng, 55



UnLitter Red Dot

About UnLitter Red Dot

Our UnLitter Red Dot programme is inspired by our founder Millard Fuller's penchant for picking litter wherever he went. We believe that everyone has something to contribute and something to gain from creating neighbourhoods that are cleaner and healthier.

Littering continues to be a perennial issue year after year. Singapore has now become a 'clean-ed' city with its 70,000 cleaners servicing Singapore's population of five million. Despite having fines in place, our void decks, playgrounds and carparks still seem to be littered with tissue paper, cigarette stubs and plastic bottles. We desire to see a country that takes ownership of its surroundings beyond the immediate home.

By participating in UnLitter, we seek to start new conversations with volunteers about what it means to care for one's living space beyond the four corners of our homes.

In FY2019, 2,056 volunteers have been mobilised to clean 54 neighbourhoods.

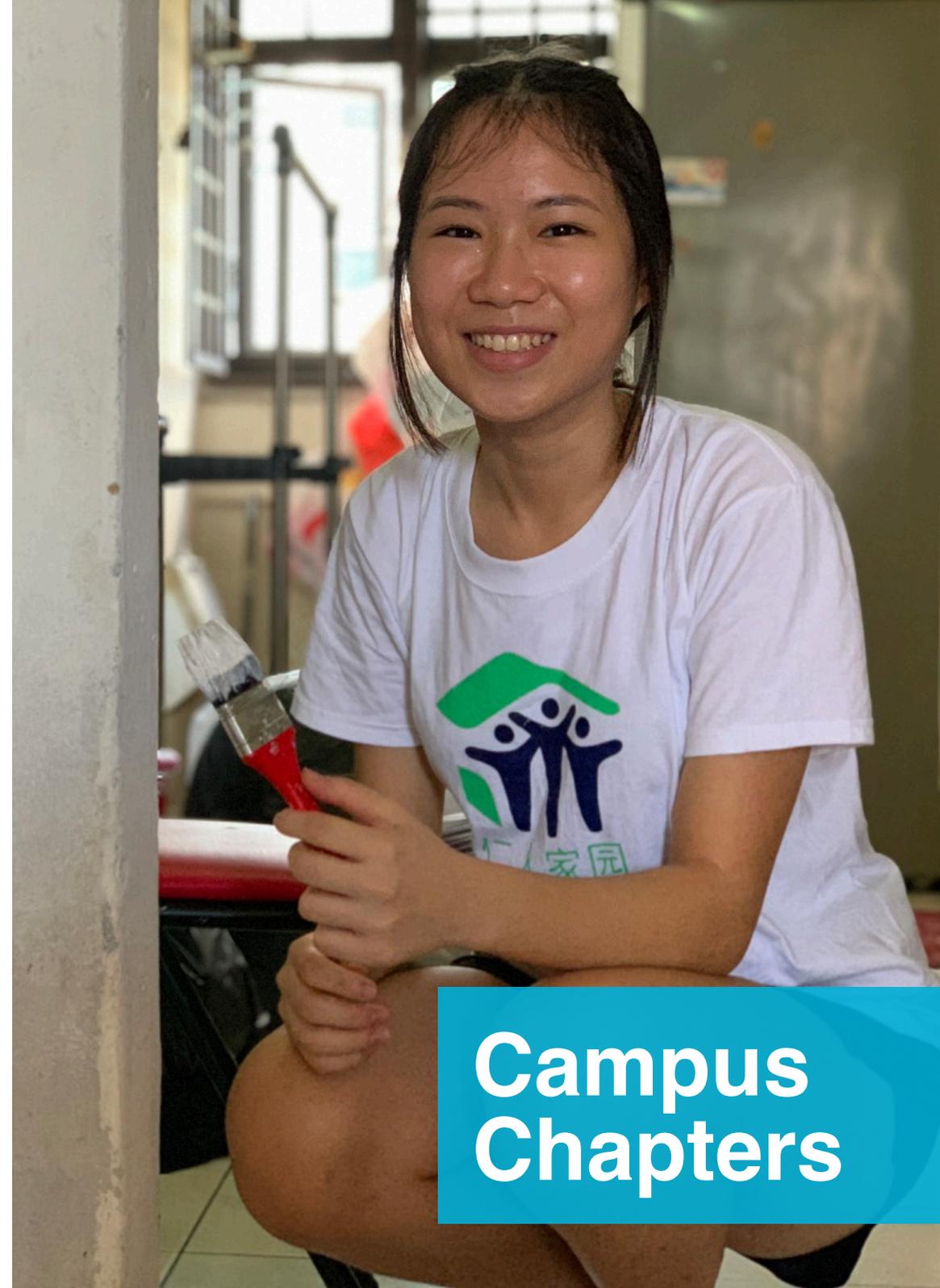
About Campus Chapters

Campus Chapters are student-initiated organisations in tertiary institutions that function almost like mini-Habitats to help us widen our reach to those in need of a helping hand.

Campus Chapters partner with us to run Project HomeWorks sessions, as well as organise their own Global Village build trips.

Our 7 Campus Chapters:

- **Dunman High School (Dunman High-Habitat)**
- **Hwa Chong Institution (HCI-Habitat)**
- **Raffles Institution Junior College (RI-Habitat)**
- **Singapore Management University (SMU-Habitat)**
- **Singapore American School (SAS-Habitat)**
- **Stamford American International School (SAIS-Habitat)**
- **Yale-NUS College (YNC-Habitat)**



**Campus
Chapters**

About StarBuilders

Habitat believes the Global Village build experiences deeply influence our volunteers for the better, and evoke a sense of responsibility to help others in need.

The StarBuilders programme, was created to enable youth from challenging backgrounds and disadvantaged families opportunities to go on an overseas build. It springs from the observation that the build experience makes a positive and transformative impact in the lives of these vulnerable youth.

The funds to sponsor these youth are from the the Darren Loh Memorial Fund, which was established to remember the late Darren Loh who passed away from pre-existing medical conditions while on a Habitat build trip in Kota Kinabalu.

Since 2014, Habitat Singapore has worked with youth from AWWA Family Services Centre, Chen Su Lan Methodist Home, Salvation Army, Methodist Welfare Services, Fei Yue Community Services, YMCA & YWCCA.

"I always thought that construction work was a 'man's job' but I managed to overcome the physical challenges in helping this homeowner build his house. The trip has taught me to take more risks and challenge myself even if I don't think I can. If I can do a 'man's job', I can do anything."

*— Natasha,
StarBuilder volunteer from AWWA*



StarBuilders Programme



Community In Action

Annual Event

LiteRally 2019

On 25 May 2019, 650 volunteers descended upon central Singapore to clean up our heartlands and parks. The event was graced by Minister of Environment and Water Resources Mr Masagos Zulkifli and also included an eco-fair where people could learn about sustainable living. LiteRally was our first event where Habitat rolled out an electronic goodie-bag and avoided the use of plastic water bottles. Members of Tzu Chi Foundation were also present to impart their expertise on sorting and recycling the litter collected by our volunteers.

300kg of litter was picked across Bishan, Marymount, Ang Mo Kio & Serangoon



Get Involved!

Volunteer

Volunteer with other like-minded individuals to use your resources and abilities to serve vulnerable members of society, locally and overseas. Visit us at habitat.org.sg to find out how you can utilise your time, skills and experience to building a world where everyone has a decent place to call home.



As an individual:

Gather a group of friends to join us on a build trip or home-cleaning sessions! Alternatively, email us with an indication of your individual interest and we will link you up with a group of volunteers. Where there is a fit, we also invite you to encourage your organisation to support Habitat Singapore's work.



As a corporation:

As a team-building exercise or a management retreat, Habitat build trips and home-cleaning sessions are excellent options for your consideration. We encourage corporates to also consider supporting our Campus Chapter's work or our StarBuilders fund.



As a school:

Invite Habitat Singapore to share about housing-related issues affecting low-income families in Singapore and our region. You may also connect with us to learn how to get involved and start a Campus Chapter today.



As a church:

Invite Habitat Singapore to share about housing-related issues affecting low-income families in our midst and abroad. You may also encourage your members to participate in and give to our various programmes. Our overseas build trips and local home-cleaning sessions also make great team-building exercises for church staff and youth ministries.

Donate:

Become a HopeBuilder and give on a monthly basis to fund our meaningful programmes. Your monthly gift will be adapted to meet the most urgent needs facing our beneficiaries. To learn more about how you can become a monthly donor, visit us at habitat.org.sg/monthly-giving.

As member of the press/media:

Visit our website or email us at info@habitat.org.sg for more information for the latest updates on our programmes and stories related to issues surrounding housing for vulnerable elderly, poverty and disaster recovery.

Our Supporters in FY2019

A heartfelt thank you to our countless individual volunteers, many of whom regularly support our work. Together, we have rekindled hope for many families by providing a safe and secure home.

ACI Worldwide (Asia) Pte Ltd
Anglo-Cinese School (Independent)
Amadeus GDS Singapore Pte. Ltd.
AppNexus (Singapore)
Archer Recruitment Pte. Ltd.
Arup Singapore Pte Ltd
Australian International School Parents Association (AISPA)
Avanade Asia Pte Ltd
Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Bar Bar Black Sheep
Bar Station
Benevity
Bloomberg Singapore Pte Ltd
Cosmos Pioneer (S) Pte Ltd
Courts Singapore
DBS Bank Ltd
Dow Chemical Pacific (Singapore) Pte Ltd
Dunman High School-Habitat Chapter (DHS-Habitat)
Far East Organization
Freeman XP Singapore
GE Aviation
Golden Gate Ventures Pte Ltd
Good Bean Consultancy
Google Inc (Singapore)
Grant Thornton Singapore
Greif Eastern Packaging Pte Ltd
Hampton Pre-School (Tanjong Pagar)
Hwa Chong Institution-Interact Club
Helicap Pte Ltd
Hua Yi Secondary School
Hwa Chong Institution-Habitat Campus Chapter (HCI-Habitat)

Infor Global Solutions (SEA) Pte Ltd
Insworld Institute
ISS International School
Johnson & Johnson Pte. Ltd
JP Morgan
KPMG Singapore
Legg Mason International
Levi Strauss Asia Pacific Division Pte Ltd
M1 Limited
MCI Group Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Methodist Girls' School
Ministry of Manpower, Occupational Safety and Health Specialist Dept
MODEC Offshore Production Systems (Singapore) Pte Ltd
MTV Asia
MVCI Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Methodist Welfare Services
Ngee Ann Muslim Student's Society
NTU EEE
NTU Indonesian Students' Christian Fellowship
NUS Kent Ridge Hall
NUS Muslim Society
Ocean IFM Pte Ltd
Orica International Pte Ltd
Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School
Paypal
Petir Neighbourhood committee under Peoples' Association
Pontiac Land Group
Procter & Gamble Singapore Pte Ltd
RI-Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter (RI-Habitat)
Sadhu Vaswani Mission

Stamford American International School
Salesforce.com Singapore Pte Ltd
The Salvation Army, Singapore
SAP Asia Pte Ltd
Scor Reinsurance Asia-pacific Pte Ltd
SG Cares
Singapore American School-Habitat Campus Chapter (SAS-Habitat)
SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC)
SIM-UB Student Council Welfare Department
Singapore Armed Forces (SAF)
Singapore Polytechnic - School of Business Club
Singapore Tourism Board
SMU-Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter
South32 Marketing Pte Ltd
Starbucks Coffee Company (SIM)
Tableau Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Teleflex Medical Asia Pte. Ltd.
Temasek Junior College
TOTO Asia Oceania Pte. Ltd.
UPS Asia Group Pte.Ltd.
UTown Residence
Victoria Junior College (VJC)
Wells Fargo
Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo
Woh Hup (Private) Limited
Yale NUS College-Habitat Campus Chapter (YNC-Habitat)
Yio Chu Kang Chapel
Zendesk Singapore Pte Ltd



**through shelter
we empower**

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