

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FY2020

June 2019 - July 2020



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**Habitat for Humanity®**  
Singapore

We build *strength, stability* and *self-reliance* through *shelter*.

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# A Message from our National Director -

## *“Don’t Waste the Crisis”*



My staff was telling me that for this annual report, perhaps we do not have to talk about the Covid-19 crisis, seeing how it came only in the last quarter of the fiscal year (July 2019 to June 2020). But I think it is impossible to ignore this giant elephant in the room - anything associated with the year 2020, even partially, will be shadowed by the impact of this global pandemic, unprecedented in the history of mankind.

We started out our fiscal year (July 2019 to June 2020) strong, ready to engage ourselves in new programmes and initiatives. Unhappily, the fiscal year entered into the last stage with the Covid-19's bewildering impact. It is not helped by the mess we see in the world, particularly in the United States of America where Habitat for Humanity started. All sorts of strife, demonstrations, violence and even bizarre public statements from the highest authorities flood the headlines on a daily basis.

My board and my staff and colleagues from our international office all rallied together, and did proper planning with great execution. We changed strategies, tweaked expectations, re-designed programmes. I am happy to say while the situation remains challenging (as is the case for almost everybody else on the planet), we are not depressed or panicking. Instead, we are looking forward to expanding new programmes like our "Sew Much Love" quilt blanket project, and "Plogwalk" environmental improvement project, among others.

*(continued on page 4)*

# A Message from our National Director -

## *“Don’t Waste the Crisis”*



As a Christian charity, we do believe that God is the one who is leading the work, regardless of the circumstances. He does that by inspiring people to come together, including those who may not believe in Him, or even oppose Him outrightly. It is clear that the commonality of wanting to make this world a better place brought all of us together, regardless of race, language or religion. And what a wonderful thing it is for us to do, in the midst of all the confusion and depressing news we read everyday. Our work is indeed a counter-presence, shouting out loud and clear to the darkness of the world that we will not be cowed by negativity and even a global pandemic.

Moving forward, our resilience and resourcefulness will be tested strongly. Looking at how all of us have come together to brave the existing storm, I have no doubt we will emerge from this stronger and better. But above all, the crisis should bring us to a state of true humility and gratitude. We ought to be very thankful that we still get to do what we do. We should treasure the people we love and the people who love us even more, as we witness how an invisible virus can wrack families and literally destroy lives at a massive scale.

When (not if) we emerge from this global pandemic, may we be humbled with the realization that we have no control over many things in life. May we pursue things and matters that have real significance, as opposed to being burdened by the many trivialities of life. If we do not, then we would have wasted this crisis.

Yong Teck Meng, National Director  
Habitat for Humanity Singapore

# 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.

# About Us



Habitat for Humanity Singapore is part of the international Habitat non-profit organisation 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 path out of poverty, Habitat works alongside low-income families to increase their access to improved housing. Habitat for Humanity operates in over 70 countries and has helped more than 35 million people build or improve the place they call home.

Since 2004, Habitat Singapore has sent volunteer teams to build decent and affordable houses across Asia-Pacific.

Locally, we provide an intensive home rehabilitation programme for vulnerable individuals and families so they can have a safe & sanitary place to call home.

In March 2020, we celebrated 16 wonderful years of service and ministry.

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



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# Our Senior Leadership



**Our Patron**  
**Mr. S. Dhanabalan**

Habitat for Humanity Singapore is very proud to have Mr. S. Dhanabalan (ex-Chairman, Temasek Holdings; ex-Cabinet Minister) as our patron. Mr. Dhanabalan is an active Habitat volunteer who participates in Habitat builds and events throughout the year. He continues to be a great source of inspiration and wisdom for many 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. Philip has been supporting Habitat's events, and encourages many others to work alongside us to fight poverty in Singapore and in this region.

# The Board of Directors

**Mr. Foo Chai Yee**  
(Chairman)  
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**  
Regional Director, APAC Operations,  
VisionFund International

**Mr. Thomas Lim**  
Founder & CEO, TLC Events Pte Ltd

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

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

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

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

## BOARD ADVISORS

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

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

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

# The Board of Directors

*Board Meeting Attendance for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 2019 to June 2020)*

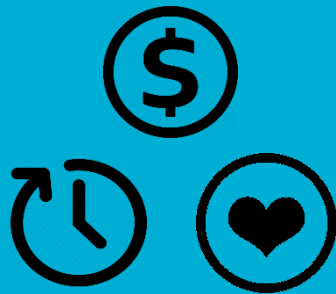
Name	7-Sep-19	17-Dec-19	7-Apr-20
Foo Chai Yee	X		X
Ivan Chan			X
Sharon Cheah	X	X	X
Ted Choo		X	X
Adeline Khoo	X	X	X
Lim Cheng Huang		X	X
Christine Lee	X	X	X
Thomas Lim	X		X
Usha Menon	X		X
Tim Nichol	X		X
Vincy Ng		X	X
Joseph Scaria		X	X

Please note that all Board members participated in many sub-committee meetings, strategic reviews, on-the-ground activities, etc. not reflected in this list. Habitat Singapore appreciates their services.

# How We Work

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.

## RESOURCES



## BUILD COMMUNITIES

# Financial Accountability & 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

## 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.



# A Year In Review

## FY 20 Impact

### Singapore



160 households served



39 estates cleaned



2416 volunteers mobilised across Singapore and the region

### Overseas



317 families given structurally safe & secure homes



15 water connections installed



8726 people received water & sanitation interventions



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# Overseas Programmes



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Since 2004, Habitat Singapore has been mobilising volunteers to experience our life-changing work through building trips.

Habitat Singapore has sent volunteers to neighbouring nations like Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam.

When you join a Global Village build, you help accelerate the building schedule of the home. The “muscle” volunteers provide also means homes can be built at lower costs.

Every home constructed, renews a family’s hope for a secure future. Volunteers too witness their impact on eradicating poverty.

In FY20, **151** volunteers built **13** homes through our Global Village Programme.



# A Hand Up

U Win Tin and his 5 family members live in Bago, Myanmar. The family was barely getting by on the earnings from their farm. During summer and winter, the family struggled to make a living. Their home, including the toilet, was in disrepair and inadequate to protect them from rain.

Our volunteers built this sturdy home alongside U Win Tin and his family. Now, he can afford to improve the life of his 4 children as he does not need to spend money on repair works.

“Now I am so lucky...I never dreamt of having this kind of house and toilet...”  
- U Win Tin, 54



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.

The Batam Build programme also includes providing amenities such water connections to families dependent on shallow wells and rainwater for their daily water requirements. Fifteen families benefitted from this initiative in FY20.

In FY20, **350** volunteers contributed towards the **50** homes built in Kabil Village, Batam.



## Batam Build

# A Firm Foundation

Rotting plywood, a leaking roof and a lack of ventilation. These were the conditions Jasmin, Siti Hartina and their children had to endure in their 10-year-old home.

A construction worker, Jasmin's income was insufficient to repair the old home or secure a new one.

Jasmin's dream finally materialised when Batam staff and a team of Singapore volunteers joined forces to give them a safe and secure place to call home.

“...having four children to feed, [and] sometimes my husband could not find work...so it's impossible for us to build a house like this...” - Siti Hartina, 36



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 is present in Battambang, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap to improve the living conditions of families living in sub-standard housing.

In addition to building and improving houses, this project provides access to clean water, hygiene & sanitation training, house maintenance training, financial and family planning education.

<b>136 Homes Built</b>	<b>Trained 8519 villagers in</b>
<b>81 Homes Upgraded</b>	<b>hygiene &amp; sanitation</b>
<b>37 Homes Repaired</b>	<b>207 water filters distributed</b>



# Project Grace



# Local Programmes

Over the last 14 years, Habitat Singapore has served vulnerable elderly and families improve the safety and sanitation of their homes through Project HomeWorks.

The homeowners we serve have little financial means and/or social support, and health issues. They also typically live in one- and two-room rental flats.

Volunteers help homeowners declutter, paint, and clean homes as well as assemble furniture.

Habitat staff work with social workers and vendors such as pest control companies to ensure a wholistic approach.

In FY20, **849** volunteers served **160** households over **228** sessions.

**47** homes required multiple sessions, while **137** volunteers served more than once.



## Project HomeWorks

# It Takes a Village

Uncle Ho (in green) had been caring for his blind younger brother for over 60 years. The pair were living in a nursing home as Uncle Ho had a fall in 2019.

Upon recovering, uncle Ho wished to return to their flat in Redhill. However, the flat was hazardous and unsanitary as he could not maintain the home as he aged.

Habitat Singapore mobilised multiple volunteer teams to prepare the flat for the brother's much awaited homecoming.

It took 4 Project HomeWorks sessions and the support of 3 corporate teams between September 2019 & January 2020 to rehabilitate the brothers' home.

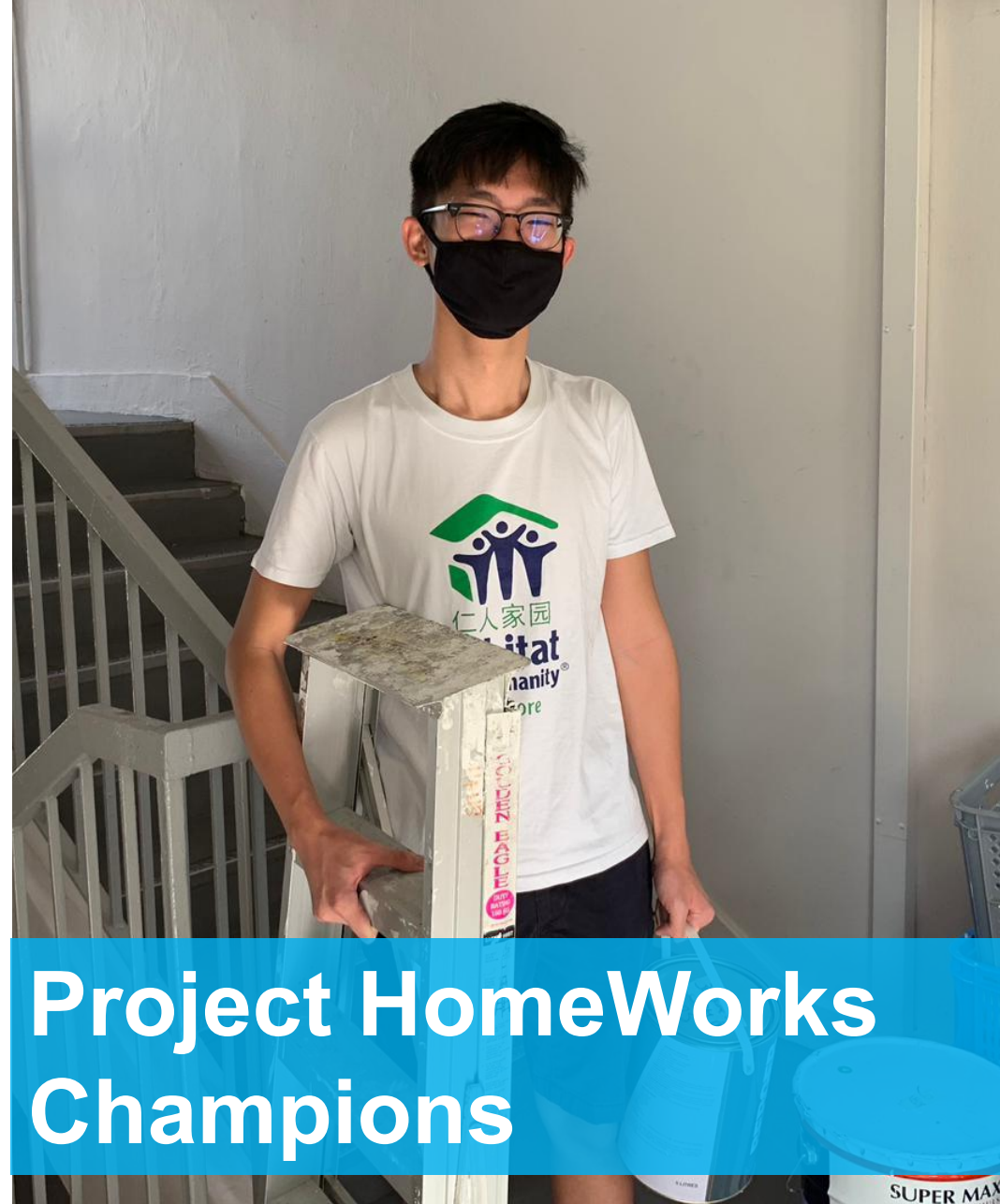


Project HomeWorks is also powered by an indispensable group of regular volunteers we call Champions.

These dedicated individuals give up their time regularly to serve alongside our staff as leaders for the many groups of volunteers who come through our doors.

Champions go through detailed training workshops and also take on sensitive cases that ad-hoc volunteers may not be equipped to handle. In short, they are an invaluable resource for our lean team.

“Had I not volunteered regularly, I wouldn’t have had this much exposure to the lives of the underprivileged in Singapore.”  
- Russel Morino, our youngest Champion



## Project HomeWorks Champions

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 shared spaces.

Through 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 FY20, **1066** volunteers joined us to clean up **39** neighbourhoods.



**UnLitter Red Dot**

Habitat Singapore believes in nurturing youth to give back to the community in a meaningful, informed and sustained fashion.

Our dedicated youth staff mentor and lead youths in various volunteering, advocacy and fundraising endeavours.

Youth may choose to join us via an existing Campus Chapter in their school, start a new chapter in their JC or university or as an independent group or volunteer.

### Our 6 school chapters are from:

- Dunman High
- Hwa Chong Institution
- Raffles Institution Junior College
- Singapore American School
- Stamford American International School
- Yale-NUS College



## Youth Programme



# Fundraising Efforts

When the Covid-19 pandemic reached our shores in March 2020, Habitat Singapore, like many other charities had to find virtual avenues to engage with the public and raise funds for our programmes.

One extraordinary fundraising event was conducted by 4 art instructors specialising in a form of Japanese pastel painting called Nagomi Art.

With a \$50 donation, anyone could join their online sessions and create their own work of art. These popular workshops were attended by over 200 participants from Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong!

Art instructors Doris, Audrey, Wendy & Gina **raised over \$30,000** through 12 sessions of online art workshops.



## Nagomi Art Fundraiser

Here at Habitat Singapore, we affectionately call our monthly donors HopeBuilders. Their commitment and generosity towards our work and the families we serve is a source of motivation for us especially during the pandemic.

Our HopeBuilder programme has grown from strength to strength over this FY to 158 monthly givers. We hope to grow this special part of the Habitat family so we may continue to operate sustainably .

“When I donate, I feel like I do my small part... It can be enough to purchase something that might seem to be unaffordable if there was only 1 donor. But if there were 20 donors, it becomes quite affordable.”

-Maxim, HopeBuilder



**HopeBuilders, giving  
monthly helps daily**

# HopeBuilders, *giving monthly helps daily*

## 6 Reasons to be a HopeBuilder



Steady funding means less spending on fundraising & more spending on families.



Timely updates & recognition of your contributions.



The knowledge that you enable tangible, long-term commitments to families in need.



Enjoy secure & automatic donation payments from your bank account.



Enjoy 250% tax deductions on your donations.



Ability to change or suspend your donation at any time.

# Get Involved

## Donate

As a non-governmental organisation, we rely on the generosity of supporters. Join our HopeBuilder programme and see the difference you can make as a monthly donor.

## Advocate

Tell others about our cause by sharing our stories and the need for decent housing. You may even fundraise for us on special occasions like birthdays, or through your hobbies like cycling.

## Volunteer

Subscribe to our newsletter and socials feeds to find out about our volunteering opportunities. From painting to building & community clean-ups, there is something for everyone.

## For Corporates

Looking for an exciting project to help a community overseas or a meaningful way to engage your staff? Let Habitat help you achieve your CSR goals. Email [info@habitat.org.sg](mailto:info@habitat.org.sg) today!

## For Schools

Enhance your values in action or student leadership curriculum with hands-on learning and talks by our staff. Consider starting chapter to nurture empathy in your students.

## For Churches

As a Christian organisation we welcome churches to serve with us, invite us to share about our ministry and uphold us through prayer and/or tithing support.



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# Our Supporters

A Matter of Taste Pte Ltd.  
Australian International School Parents  
Association  
Avanade Asia Pte Ltd.  
Bank of America Merrill Lynch  
Bank of New York Mellon  
Bloomberg Singapore Pte. Ltd.  
Cathay Pacific Airways Limited  
Destination Beverage Pte. Ltd  
Dulwich College (Singapore) Pte Ltd  
Dunman High School (DHS) - Habitat Campus  
Chapter  
DOW Chemicals  
Edrington Singapore Pte. Ltd.  
Far East Organization  
Fiji Water  
Fire City  
GE Aviation  
Geo Energy Resources Limited  
Good Bean Consultancy Pte Ltd  
GrabTaxi Holdings Pte. Ltd.  
Great Eastern Holdings Limited  
Greif Eastern Packaging Pte. Ltd.

Habasit Far East Pte Ltd  
Hampton Pre-School  
Hua Yi Secondary School  
Hwa Chong Institution (HCI) - Habitat Campus  
Chapter  
Hwa Chong Institution (HCI) - Interact Club  
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Methodist Girls' School  
MTM Solutions Pte Ltd.  
MTV Asia  
MVCI Pte Ltd  
Ministry of Culture Community and Youth

# Our Supporters

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NS BlueScope Pte. Ltd.  
Oiltanking Singapore Chemical Storage Pte. Ltd.  
Owens Corning (Singapore) Pte Ltd  
PayPal Pte. Ltd.  
Pinwheel Maker Pte. Ltd.  
Procter & Gamble (Singapore) Pte Ltd  
QBE Insurance (Singapore) Pte Ltd.  
Qi Group  
Raffles Institution (RI) - Habitat Campus Chapter  
Rolls-Royce Singapore Pte. Ltd.  
SAP Asia Pte. Ltd.  
SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC)  
Singapore American School (SAS) - Habitat  
Campus Chapter  
Singapore Management University (SMU) -  
Habitat Campus Chapter  
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Sephora Singapore Pte Ltd.

Singapore Polytechnic Biz Club  
Singapore Tourism Board  
Spirax Sarco Pte. Ltd.  
Splunk Services Singapore Ptd. Ltd.  
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Starbucks Coffee Singapore Pte. Ltd.  
Takeda Pharmaceuticals  
Telaria Singapore Pte Ltd.  
Temasek Junior College  
Tiffany & Co.  
TOTO Asia Oceania Pte. Ltd.  
United Way Worldwide  
Victoria Junior College (VJC)  
Wells Fargo Bank, National Association  
Wood Mackenzie Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.  
Yale NUS College (YNC) - Habitat Campus  
Chapter  
Yayasan Mendaki  
Zendesk Singapore



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