

HABITAT HAPPENINGS



Winter 2011

You Are Making a Difference in a Place of Desperate Need

Just last month a team of 17 Board Members, Volunteers and Staff partnered with Habitat El Salvador and spent a week building homes for families in need of a “hand up”



Charlie, a dedicated TriState Habitat volunteer takes a rest after a long day of work on the site (left)

Part of our team pictured with the masons in front of one of the houses we helped start from the ground up (below)



The day had finally arrived, our team was heading to what would be our worksite for the next five days. We had anticipated this moment for many months and yet were still surprised by what we saw. Our short walk on a dirt road to the property where a large family was currently living was our first indication that we weren't in the U.S. anymore. *Missing were the nice garages, wooden decks, vinyl siding and nice windows we were used to seeing.* Instead, we saw basic concrete shelter, open windows with no glass and a tiny bathroom that held a single shower head and a toilet. The family we were serving greeted us with open arms and great big smiles. We worked alongside family members and professional masons moving concrete blocks, mixing mortar, filling holes, wiring rebar and sifting sand. By the end of the week we had nearly finished two houses and the thank you's never stopped coming! The Habitat El Salvador staff and the partner families were so grateful, yet we were the ones who felt grateful for the opportunity to learn and serve. You can only imagine that this was simply a small glimpse of the need in the entire country of El Salvador where over half the population lives in sub-standard housing.

Your investment in TriState Habitat helps serve families here as well as families in El Salvador like the one pictured on the right. Each year TriState Habitat builds locally and also contributes financially towards our partner affiliate in El Salvador. Thank you so much for your generosity! It is making an impact both here and abroad!



Everyone deserves a decent place to live

www.habitat-tristate.org

An Exciting 2011 Build Season Awaits You in the TriState



Our 2011 Build season here in the TriState is already under way in Trenton, OH. You can sign up and find out more about where you can participate by visiting the "volunteer" section on our website. This season we will be building in Hamilton, Lebanon, Oxford, Clermont County in Ohio, Indiana and Northern Kentucky. Thank you for those volunteers who have invested many hours in building homes around the TriState.



Staff and volunteers working on the site and enjoying new relationships with our Salvadoran friends.



What Can You Do To Be a Part of Providing Simple, Decent and Affordable Housing?

You can go! TriState Habitat will be sending a team from our affiliate to El Salvador each year. To find out more information email natalien@habitat-tristate.org or call the office at 513-942-9211.

You can't go? **Then you can give** by visiting our website (or send a check) to make a donation designated to Global Village (El Salvador). Your gift will help TriState support the teams that go over each year to make a difference in the lives of El Salvadoran families.



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