



## MD's Quill

Felix A. Fernandes  
Managing Director

A unique feature of Habitat for Humanity's programs is the **"Spirit of Volunteerism"**. For many years Habitat India has hosted numerous volunteers from around the world under the "Global Village" program. Last year we actively promoted this concept with companies and other organizations within the country. The results have been truly gratifying and during the past nine months we have had 45 organizations send more than 1100 of their staff to work on build sites along with the home owners.

For many of our volunteers, working in urban slums or villages of rural India, shoulder to shoulder with needy families irrespective of caste, creed, community or social status can be a highly emotional and satisfying experience.

We are so proud that some of the most eminent business leaders and Captains of Industry have accompanied their staff to build on Habitat build sites.

We are truly humbled and grateful for their participation and support of our mission in helping to remove the scourge of poverty housing

## PROUD HOMEPARTNER



**S**tanding next to her young daughter, Suman smiles as she shows her house to us with pride and a sense of contentment. In her mid forties, Suman believes that a home brings security to the family. It means providing a safe environment for her children from factors that make them vulnerable to exploitation. A house also gives her and her family proper sanitation and toilet facilities. It also gives her children an enabling environment for survival, growth and development, a place where they can study in peace, where they can play, and live together as a family.

Suman is one among the Habitat homeowner who lives in Mundi village in Rewari district in Haryana (North India).

Without a proper house, life was difficult for Suman and her husband with their four children. Her husband, a daily wage labourer frequently suffers from mental

disorder, thus cutting off his source of income when he is not working. Suman supports the family by tailoring and rearing buffalos. Initially it was just one room with a thatched roof and the whole family had to share this small space. Suman was also worried about her young daughter and her privacy. She recalls "whenever visitors would come home, it was difficult for us as there was no space especially when my daughter has to bathe before going to school or after coming back from school (pointing towards a small area next to the room) we had to wait till the visitors leave then only one could use the bathing area." Suman was a member of the self help group (SHG) in her village through which she came to know of Habitat. She grabbed this opportunity. Now Suman is happy that the family has enough privacy in their house.

Suman is a proud homeowner today.

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# DASHBOARD

## Families Served in Jan - Mar 09

Location	Core Houses <sup>1</sup>	Repairs	Rehab	Addition in Houses	Total
Bangalore	53	-	27	-	80
Delhi	34	-	-	-	34
Mumbai	278	300	-	60	638
Chennai (Tsunami)	326	40	-	-	366
Affiliates		-	21	-	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1139</b>

<sup>1</sup> Core Houses: New House



▲ Ranjana Bharat Bhalaria, Old House at Ambegaon, Pune District



▲ Ranjana Bharat Bhalaria, Habitat House, Ambegaon, Pune



▲ Prabhu Peter's Old House at Bypanahalli slum, Bangalore



▲ Prabhu Peter's Habitat House at Bypanahalli slum Bangalore

## IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee



- ▲ Mr. Mark T. Robinson, CEO- Citi South Asia was formally inducted as the Co-Chairperson of the **IndiaBUILDS Advisory Committee.**



- ▲ Advisory Committee members at the meeting presided by Co-Chairperson Smt. Rajashree Birla (L-R) Mr. Anil Singhvi, Mr. Sanjay Nayar, Mr. Mark Robinson, Mrs. Rajashree Birla, Mr. Asit Koticha & Mr. Felix Fernandes. In the picture are also Dr. Ram, Aditya Birla Centre and Aloka, Citibank.



## EVENTS

### ZEEL, Essel Group and supporters run for Habitat for Humanity

The Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon 2009 was held in Mumbai on 18th January 2009. This event gives charities a platform to leverage and seek support for their cause. The theme for SCMM 2009 was Run For A Cause.

Around 35,000 people participated in the 6th SCMM 2009, of these a few thousand ran for NGOs of their choice. A total of 40 HFH supporters ran for the cause of HFH, of which 38 ran the Dream Run of 6 Kms and two participated in the Half Marathon (21 km).

ZEEL (Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited) and Essel Group participated in the Corporate Challenge event, contributing INR 200,000. Their support to Habitat was given wide media coverage. ([www.zeenews.com/video/showvideo1043.html](http://www.zeenews.com/video/showvideo1043.html)).



**Neil Chakravarti (Executive Vice President and Head of Strategy and Business Development)** at ZEEL “Habitat in India builds homes for the underprivileged and we are happy to support the cause of elimination of poverty housing in India”.

**John Thattil (National Director Resource Development HFH, India)** “The event supporting various not-for-profit organisations has become a milestone in Mumbai's calendar of events. Today's event is truly a spectacle and helps reinforce the 'spirit of Mumbai', with over 35,000 participants and over 200,000 cheer leaders. Habitat for Humanity, India, in its 25th year of helping eliminate poverty housing in India, is sincerely grateful for the support of Zee TV and the Essel packaging group for their support at this truly magnificent event.”

**Deepak Visvanathan (General Manager HRC Mumbai)** “Habitat for Humanity is sincerely grateful to ZEEL and the Essel Group for supporting the cause of eliminating poverty housing in India. It is heartening to see such large numbers on the field today supporting social causes and of course the “Strength of Spirit” of Mumbai.”





Standard Chartered  
**MUMBAI 2009**  
MARATHON  
Jan 18, 2009 Feel the spirit





KOSI: "The River of Sorrow"

## PROJECT 'ASHREYA' (SHELTER)

ACC and Hindustan Unilever Limited jointly have partnered with HFH India for the Bihar flood rehabilitation project.

The 2008 Bihar flood, occurred due to a breach in the Kosi embankment near Indo-Nepal border on August 18, 2008 and was one of the worst floods in the history of the Indian state of Bihar. The river changed its course and inundated areas which hadn't experienced floods in last many decades affecting over 2.3 million people in hundreds of villages in the northern part of Bihar. The worst affected districts included Madhepura, Bhagalpur, Araria and West Champaran.

Post the declaration of the Government policy on shelter in Feb 2009; ACC and HUL have jointly come forward to support HFH in the rehabilitation of the flood affected, through Project Ashreya. Under this partnership 100 families will be assisted with housing in the village of Jorgama, Madhepura District. The intervention would have an integrated developmental approach covering additional areas of infrastructural development, vocational training, and livelihood generation opportunities for 300 of the affected persons.

The project also will see the construction of a Community Centre which will be used by the people for their livelihood activities and an emergency shelter incase of future disasters.



▲ MOU signing: Ms. Meeta Singh, HUL, Mr. Duttgupta, ACC, and HFH India

# Women IndiaBUILDS

The Women *IndiaBUILDS* (WIB) members along with their friends participated in a one day build at Karjat.



Building Homes, Transforming Communities, Changing Lives

Women *IndiaBUILDS* Committee on the occasion of International Women's Day (8th March) initiated contacts with the media to carry appeals to support Habitat's cause through various magazines. The committee successfully secured free advertisement space in Verve Magazine, People's magazine and Sunday Mid Day (Local newspaper).

The interview of Mrs. Avanti Birla (WIB Brand Ambassador) and Mrs. Sheila Kripalani (WIB Chairperson) featured on IndiWo.com where they spoke of their association with Habitat and invited readers to pledge support for Habitat.

Please see link below for the interview  
<http://indiwo.in.com/india/interview/women-achievers-life/womens-day-challenge-give-a-woman-a-home/50952/0>

<http://indiwo.in.com/india/interview/women-achievers-life/avanti-birla-a-powerful-devi-shakti/50942/0>



## CNBC TV18 features *GlobalBUILD*

CNBC TV 18 featured the housing conditions of the needy in urban settlements highlighting the plight of the migrant poor relocated on the outskirts in Delhi. The inability of poor to borrow has meant the ineligibility for decent housing and states have failed to provide proper housing to the poor. The documentary featured Habitat for Humanity's Global Build held in October 2008 at Bhalaswa Resettlement colony, Delhi. 73 volunteers from five countries participated in the Global Build was featured in the documentary which spoke about volunteers coming from five different countries and building.



To see the video click

[http://www.in.com/active18/watchnow/watchvideo\\_mc.php?autono=388819](http://www.in.com/active18/watchnow/watchvideo_mc.php?autono=388819)

# VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



GV Teams from U.S.

The Blackstone Group



	Volunteer Teams	No. of Volunteers	No. of Build Days
Domestic Volunteers*	32	645	42
Global Volunteers**	4	75	26
Individual Volunteers	1	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>72</b>

\* Volunteers from India

\*\* International Volunteers

	Volunteer Team	Build Location	No. of Volunteers
1	American International School	Chennai	92
2	Tim Pepper Team - US	Chennai	16
3	Golden Bytes team- Netherlands	Chennai	13
4	US team - Megan	Chennai	12
5	Sri Ram School	Delhi	32
6	ASK Wealth Advisors	Mumbai	96
7	AAA & US Consulate	Mumbai	21
8	IFC	Mumbai	30
9	Blackstone	Mumbai	19
10	Mercedes Benz International School	Mumbai	26
11	Cummins	Mumbai	31
12	Thomson Reuters	Bangalore	226
13	CISCO	Bangalore	41
14	Deshpande Foundation	Bangalore	3
15	JP Morgan	Bangalore	3
16	TIMKEN	Bangalore	25
17	International School of Kuala Lumpur	Bangalore	34
18	Individual Volunteers-Brett and Seran Vreskala	Bangalore	2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>722</b>



# VOLUNTEER SPEAK



**AMIT DIXIT**

Managing Director,  
Blackstone Group

**"Highlight of the trip was the fact that we could help someone else and bring a smile to their face. My favourite experience was breaking the bricks."**  
Rifka Verma, Student, Sri Ram School, Delhi

**Building together- Homeowner and volunteers was a wonderful experience. Learning of different aspect of Building Homes.**  
Sameer Koticha, Director, ASK Financials

**Doing something for other rather than yourself and realizing all are not as blessed as you.**  
Vishal Chanriramani, ASK Group

**Getting to build someone's "DREAM" from scratch was the most satisfying experience.**  
Satish Narayan, ASK Group

**This is an experience, an education not taught in school.**  
Preet Koticha, ASK Group

**The experience is been great; giving back to the community is the primary objective. It's a great team building exercise involving staff across the entire hierarchy from drivers to caterers to investment professionals. It is a kind of an event where everybody can participate compared to other corporate activities. Apart from just being financial sponsors this is like our sweat equity into the project. Our effort will come into fruition and there will be good looking houses here.**  
Amit Dixit , Managing Director, Blackstone Group, India Office

**There was active participation where almost 80% of the office turned up for the event. It was a phenomenal experience for the entire team and for me personally. Doing something great, helping out people at the same time being able to get together as team. Probably one of the few exercises that we have done in the past as an entire team. Given the success and the way people have participated we would love to do a lot more of such events.**  
Saurav Dass, Blackstone Group, India Office



**PAUL FOLMSBEE**

U.S. Consul General



**R. J. Vakil**

ASK Client



**POORVI CHOTHANI**

President,

American Alumini Association



**FATIMA SHUKUR**

IFC

**SUJOY BOSE**

Senior Manager & Head Mumbai  
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**LINUS CHETTIAR**

Vice President, Corporate Communications  
Deutsche Bank

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We express our sincere thanks to all our supporters & well wishers

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A special thanks to all our Tithing partners.

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ZEEL

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Brothers Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS)  
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Param Prasad Charitable Society  
Rural Education and Action for Liberation (REAL)  
Rural Education and Economical Development (REED)  
Salvation Army - Kanyakumari District  
Society for Social Development (SOSOD)

## Volunteer Builds

American Alumni Association  
American International School  
ASK Wealth Advisors  
Blackstone  
Cummins  
Deshpande Foundation  
Golden Bytes, Netherlands  
IFC  
ISKL  
JP Morgan  
Mercedes Benz International School, Pune  
US Consulate, Mumbai  
US Team,  
Shri Ram School, New Delhi  
Thomson Reuters  
TIMKEN

## Individual Volunteers

Brett and Seran Vreskala

# NEW FACES

Julian Gonsalves has joined Habitat Resource Centre, Mumbai as a Civil Engineer.

Habitat for Humanity India on 

**Yes, I want to contribute towards safe and decent housing**



**IndiaBUILDS** Advisory Committee  
Building Homes, Transforming Communities, Changing Lives

**Co -Chairs**

Mrs. Rajashree Birla  
*Aditya Birla Group*

Mr. Mark T Robinson  
*Citi, South-Asia*

**Members**

Mr. Sanjay Nayar  
*KKR India Advisors Private Limited*

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*Habitat for Humanity India*



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**Brand Ambassador**

Mrs. Avanti Birla

**Chair**

Mrs. Sheila Kripalani

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Mrs. Kannan Koticha

**Goodwill Ambassador**

John Abraham



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