



AFS Freiwilligeneinsatz in Neuseeland

Habitat for Humanity

Participants immerse themselves in a local community in New Zealand by living with a host family and working full-time as a volunteer in a community-focused organization.

Participants will spend 8 weeks at one of the Habitat for Humanity affiliates where they will build housing for low income families and take part in various activities such as construction, administration and help with special events.

The participants experience working in the community allow them to develop their interpersonal, decision making, communication and leadership skills. The programme is an opportunity for them to gain self-awareness, intercultural knowledge and sensitivity and an awareness of global issues. It is also a time to develop the volunteer ethic so central to the AFS mission.

Participant Criteria:

- Medium level of fitness required
- No health restrictions
- High level of English required
- Participants must show an interest in voluntary community service

What is Habitat for Humanity?

Founded in Americus, Georgia, USA in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, Habitat for Humanity International is a Christian organization that works in partnership with people of goodwill and families in need, to eliminate poverty housing from the world and to make a decent shelter a matter of conscience. Habitat for Humanity is present in almost 100 countries around the world.

What's it all about in New Zealand?

The Situation:

- Kiwi families are living in caravans, garages, tents, cars & single room houses right under our noses.
- Housing problems are the single largest contributor to the "poverty gap"
- Rent is the most frequently mentioned reason for seeking help from foodbanks.
- Overcrowding of houses is a common problem in various parts of NZ.
- Housing problems in NZ continue to worsen, despite Government Housing Programmes.



The Solution:

- Habitat for Humanity NZ seeks to address this poverty crisis by helping people in need have a simple, decent house of their own.
- Since it began in 1993, Habitat for Humanity NZ has housed more than 345 families.
- It is active in 19 regions across NZ
- Houses are built & funded largely through volunteers and donations of cash and materials
- Family's home loan repayments go to help build another home
- On-going education & nurturing for new home owners provides long term solutions, increasing the whole family's self esteem, security and confidence.

You are part of the solution:

- As a volunteer – whether you can build, paint, or make cups of tea, we can use you.
- Spreading the word – once you have caught the Habitat bug you will be excited about telling others.
- Because of your help we can build more homes for people who have none, give more kids a safe place to sleep and play, we can give families a secure future.

Website: www.habitat.org.nz

