ARMENIA NEEDS YOU!

Join a Global Village Trip to Armenia October 18 - 31, 2009

More than 50% of Armenia's families in Yerevan live in deteriorated housing with cramped quarters and limited water and heat.

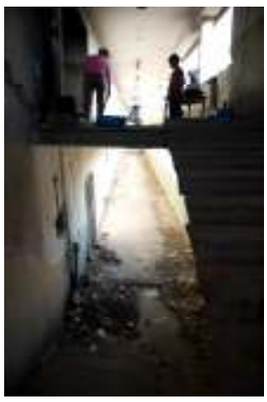
Armenia proudly calls itself the world's oldest Christian nation, having adopted Christianity in 301 A.D. Lying on the Silk Road and wedged between Persian, Turkish and Russian empires, the country has seen its share of passing merchants, holy men and invading armies. Following the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, Armenia declared independence and is now a landlocked country in the Caucusas, its borders closed with Turkey and Azerbaijan but open to Georgia and Iran. Armenia remains a "lower middle income country" with a gross national income per capita of just $2,640 per year.

No previous construction skills or experience is required—just an ability to learn, be flexible, share tasks and enjoy making friends and acquaintances from different cultures as well as one's own. The team is seeking adventurous, hard-working, enthusiastic people looking to make a difference in their own life as well as the lives of others.

About Armenia

In Armenia, three events have shaped the current housing situation: economic and social transition that included mass housing privatization; the massive Spitak earthquake in 1988; and a large influx of refugees. Ninety-six percent of the housing stock in Armenia is now privately owned and the 4 percent of housing remaining in government hands for rental is not targeted at low-income households. No national system of housing allowances exists. A significant part of the country's housing stock is in "deplorable" condition and continues to deteriorate. The drop in household income that accompanied economic transition limited investment in housing repairs and maintenance, as did a lack of household experience and information in regard to ownership responsibilities.

After nearly eight years of work in Armenia, Habitat for Humanity re-launched its country organization in June 2008 to serve more low-income families at an exponentially faster rate, and to become an advocate for better housing policies and practices aimed at those living in indecent housing conditions. Habitat for Humanity Armenia is committed to providing housing solutions for families in need of a simple, decent place to live and thrive.



For More Information

For more information about this trip to Armenia, please contact the team leaders, Murray or Jan Coates at m.coates@shaw.ca or call 1-204-771-6615 or visit the Habitat for Humanity website www.habitatglobalvillage.ca

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