



1 week...250 volunteers...10 homes

Monday, October 5th, 2009- UN World Habitat Day

The United Nations has declared the first Monday in October as UN World Habitat Day, a day that serves as a call to action and reflection on housing issues that affect billions of people across the world. HFH Romania and HFH Northern Ireland ask your presence at the 'Big Build' event as a show of solidarity in both the campaign against poverty housing and in celebration of UN World Habitat Day.

Round Table Discussion- Need, Action and Upholding the Values of UN World Habitat Day

During the Round Table Discussion, the following topics will be addressed:

- The enormous need that exists, both within Romania and throughout the world, for decent, safe and affordable housing
- The available resources that can be harnessed to combat poverty housing
- The importance of concrete action in the fight against poverty housing
- Celebrating *UN World Habitat Day* by upholding the principles of the day
 - Reflection on the state of our towns and cities
 - The basic human right of all to adequate shelter
 - Our collective responsibility for the future of our living conditions in respect to housing

Important Talking Points

Please feel free to use the following talking points or facts regarding poverty housing, either during the round table discussion or during the press conference:

- The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.
- 'Big Build' is a celebration of the 10 years of partnership between Habitat for Humanity Romania and Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland, and 15 years of Habitat's work in Northern Ireland.
- Over 392 volunteers have been sent by HFH Northern Ireland to Romania to build homes with Romanians in need.
- By Habitat for Humanity's selection criteria, there are an estimated 150,000 Romanian families currently living in poverty housing.
- Habitat for Humanity has assisted over 1,000,000 people world wide to have access to decent, safe, and affordable housing.
- Habitat for Humanity Romania has assisted over 1,500 families to live in decent, safe and affordable housing
- Big Build is the largest celebration of UN World Habitat Day in Europe. It represents the solidarity of Europeans in the campaign to eradicate poverty housing and recognizes that it is our responsibility to help those in need of decent housing.