



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

## VIP Guests

We are honoured to have so many special guests with us on such a momentous occasion. The following list is a guide as to the VIP's that have confirmed their presence during the Big Build celebration. To find out which VIP's will be participating in the program during your stay, please refer to the Event Calendar included in your briefing packet.

Each day brings a new confirmation of another VIP, so please feel free to speak with **Chris Fontanesi, VIP Relations, at 0727 216 622** for any last minute information that you may need.

## VIP's for Big Build

President Emil Constantinescu

President Constantinescu was the President of Romania from 1996-2000, leading a coalition named the Romanian Democratic Convention. President Constantinescu graduated from the law school of the University of Bucharest and began teaching in the Geology Department of the University of Bucharest in 1966. After the Romanian Revolution, President Constantinescu became a founding member and Vice President of the Civic Alliance. He was also the acting Chairman of the Romanian anti-Totalitarian Forum, an association that would later go on to become the Romanian Democratic Convention. President Constantinescu has been a long time supporter of HFH Romania, having attended both Euro Habitat 2007 Build as well as accompanying Mr. Adrian Ciorna to the United States to assist in building homes for hurricane victims for the Jimmy Carter Work Project.

Mr. Ian Paisley Jr., Northern Ireland Assembly, politician

Ian Paisley Jr. is currently a NI Assembly member with the Democratic Unionist Party, serving the constituency of North Antrim. Mr. Paisley attended Queens University in Belfast. From 2001-2008, he was a member of the NI Policing Board as well as a member of the NI forum from 1996-1998, when he became a member of the NI Assembly. In 1999 the Royal Humane Society awarded Mr Paisley with the Bravery Award 1999 for rescuing a drowning child.

Mr. Declan O'Loan, Northern Ireland Assembly, politician

Mr. Declan O'Loan is currently a NI Assembly member with the Social Democratic and Labour Party, serving the constituency of North Antrim. Mr. O'Loan is a member of the Ballymena District Policing Partnership, and was the chair from Dec. 07 until Nov 08. Mr. O'Loan graduated from the University of Cambridge and received his MBA from the University of Ulster. Until June of this year, he served as the Deputy Mayor of Ballymena.





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

Mr. Paddy McIntyre, President of Housing Authority of Northern Ireland

Paddy McIntyre represents the Chief Executive's Forum, the association of chief executive officers of public bodies in Northern Ireland, at the Shared Future conference. He became Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in 1999 having worked in the Executive for over twenty-five years. NIHE is one of the UK's largest housing authorities with an annual budget of £550m, some 130,000 dwellings and around 3,000 staff. He has led many strategy and policy reviews and initiatives including the Executive's community relations strategy. His involvements include membership of the Chartered Institute of Housing, the Shadow Trust and a number of voluntary organisations.

HM Ambassador Mr. Robin Barnett, British Ambassador to Romania

HE Ambassador Barnett has been British ambassador in Bucharest since June 2006. His previous experience includes two postings in Poland. Initially, during the communist era in the early 1980's and later as Deputy Head of Mission from 1998 to 2001 during which time Poland joined NATO and was preparing to join the EU. HE Ambassador Barnett has also served in Vienna where he helped negotiate the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty and in the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations in New York, where he focussed on global development issues.

HE Ambassador John Morahan, Irish Ambassador to Romania

HE Ambassador Morahan has been the Irish Ambassador to Romania since 2008. His full biography is pending and will be available on request. Please contact Chris Fontanesi, [chrisfontanesi@habitat.ro](mailto:chrisfontanesi@habitat.ro) or 0727 216 622.

Mrs. Sorina Placinta, Romanian Minister of Youth and Sports

Mrs. Sorina Placinta is currently the Romanian Minister of Youth and Sports. She is a member of the Democratic Liberal Party. She was nominated by Emil Boc, the Romanian Prime Minister. She graduated from the College of Technology and Textile Chemistry in Iasi. She also has extensive business dealings, including the hotel Fashion Center, the Medicover clinic and a host of other firms.

Mr. Donald Haszczyn, Area Vice President for Habitat for Humanity International

Don Haszczyn is currently the Vice President for Habitat for Humanity International for the Europe and Central Asia region. He is also on the Board of Directors of several national Habitat for Humanity ministries, including Romania. Prior to HFHI, Don was the CFO for Northern Europe at GE Medical Systems, as well as Project Manager at GE Lighting.

Mr. Jan Sorensen

Jan Sand Sorenson, originally from the Netherlands, is currently the UN Resident





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

Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Romania. He has an extensive foreign policy background including nearly two years as the UNDP Resident Representative in Guyana, more than five years as the Resident Coordinator in Latvia, in addition to more than sixteen years of experience with the ILO. He speaks seven languages and has a Ph.D. in Nordic studies in addition to postgraduate studies in Political Science.

Rev. Harold Good

He was ordained a minister of the Methodist Church in 1962 and his pastoral career culminated in his election as President of the Methodist Church in Ireland for 2001 – 2002. In addition, he served as Director of the Corrymeela Centre for Reconciliation for five years and held a number of public appointments, including membership of the Human Rights Commission. He has a deep commitment to promoting reconciliation in NI acted as an independent witness to verify the decommissioning of IRA weapons in September 2005.

Mr. Laszlo Borbely, former Romanian Minister of Development, Public Works and Housing

Mr. Borbely is the former Romanian Minister of Development, Public Works and Housing and Romanian Parliamentary Deputy for Mures County. He has been one of the strongest supporters of Habitat for Humanity Romania in the Romanian National Government, bestowing the title of "Public Utility" on HFH Romania. He graduated from the Institute of Economic Sciences from the University of Timisoara.

Mrs. Monica Tatoiu

Mrs. Tatoiu is the CEO of Oriflame, a company focused on the sale of cosmetic products via an independent sales force outside the traditional store based business model. Founded in 1967, Oriflame now operates in over 61 countries with annual sales reaching 1.3 Billion Euros.

Mr. Jan Sorensen is currently the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Romania, a position he has held since January 2008.

Mrs. Anca Harasim, Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bucharest

Anca Harasim is the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Romania and the President of Harvard Club Romania-Moldova. She has a Master Degree in Public Administration from John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Over the last sixteen years, she has fulfilled assignments in major NGOs in Romania, as Executive Director of the Soros Foundation for an Open Society, the Fulbright Commission and AmCham Romania. Her consultancy experience consists of previous assignments like World Bank consultant for Albania's Poverty Reduction Strategy Program, and advisor for the European Commission's largest PHARE Program in Romania on reforming the Local Public Administration.

Mr. Seremi Stefan, Romanian Parliamentary Deputy





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

Mr. Seremi Stefan is currently a Deputy in the Romanian Parliament. He held several local function on the county level, including President and Vice President of the Bihor County Council, as well as the local secretary of his political party PD Bihor.

Mr. Adrian Domocos, Mayor of Beius

Mayor of Beius since June 2008, Mr. Domocos is a leading member of the local National Liberal Party. Mr. Domocos has been a supporter of Habitat for Humanity Beius and Romania since his election, coming to numerous HFH Romania functions, collaborating on Roma oriented projects and assisted in furthering HFH Beius' goals in the region.

Mrs. Clare McCarty, Chief Executive Officer of Clanmil Housing

Clanmil aims to be a primary provider of high quality homes at the lowest possible economic rent for everyone in housing need in Northern Ireland. Clanmil has over 2000 housing units and a turnover of £9m, they partner with Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland by providing the shared equity funding to deliver local projects.

Mr. Gerry Clancy, Executive Director of Habitat Ireland,

Mr. Clancy's background is as accountant and he has considerable experience in business banking as well as in education. HFH Ireland was launched in November 2002 and is committed to addressing housing needs in Ireland as well as supporting international HFH projects around the world. Habitat Ireland's Global Village Programme aims to be sending over 50 teams of volunteers abroad by 2012 and to raise over €1 million annually for overseas projects.

Mr. Ian Kirkpatrick, Board Member of the Trinity Housing Association in Northern Ireland

The Trinity Housing Association in Northern Ireland delivers a wide range of social housing solutions for older people. It has developed award winning housing schemes for frail elderly and for those who suffer from dementia. In addition, it has also developed considerable expertise in the field of design of accommodation for people with mental health illness and learning disabilities. Trinity also provides general family housing.

Mr. Seamus McKeague, Managing Director of Creagh Concrete.

Over the past twenty-five years, this family-owned company has grown to become one of Ireland's leading producers of concrete products for the construction, civil engineering and agricultural sectors. Today, Creagh Concrete employ a workforce in excess of 200. We have the resources and expertise to meet the most demanding situations, providing comprehensive solutions for a wide range of building projects. Creagh has provided foundational support for Habitat's work in Northern Ireland since the very early days.





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

Mr. Patrick Linders,

Patrick Linders trained as a Chartered Engineer, his primary business is in Property Development though he is involved in a range of other business across Ireland. Patrick is a founding member of the Habitat Ireland Board which was launched in 2002, he currently serves as Chair. Habitat Ireland's Global Village Programme aims to be sending over 50 teams of volunteers abroad by 2012 and to raise over €1 million annually for overseas projects.

Dr Angus Beck, Chairman of Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland

Angus' origins are in mechanical engineering, but he has spent most of his career in the IT Industry, and was one of the founders of Pinnacle Computing, a UK and Ireland wide IT company. In recent times, Angus has been providing Leadership Training to blue chip organizations in Ireland at senior and middle management levels. As well as being the Chairman of Habitat for Humanity NI, Angus is also a veteran of several Global Village teams, and has lead/co-lead teams to Guatemala, Uganda and Ghana.

Ilie Nastase, former Romanian professional tennis player

Năstase was the World No. 1 in 1973 according to the Association of Tennis Professionals ranking system, which placed him first from August 23, 1973 to June 2, 1974. He is one of the five players in the world to win more than 100 pro titles in singles (57) and doubles (51).<sup>[1]</sup> He was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1991. Năstase won seven Grand Slam titles: two in singles, three in men's doubles, and two in mixed doubles. He also won four ATP World Tour Finals championships.

Elisabeta Lipă, Rowing Olympic Champion

Mrs. Lipă is a retired rower from Romania, who was born under the name of Elisabeta Oleniuc. She is the most decorated rower in the history of the Olympics, winning five gold medals, two silver medal and one bronze. She holds the record for the most years between gold medals, at 20 years.

Gabriela Szabo, Olympic Running Champion

Gabriela Szabo gathered 21 golden and 12 silver medals. She is among the first athletes in the world to conquer all the absolute titles in the European, World and Olympic championship.

Doina Melinte, Olympic Sprinting Champion





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

At the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles Mrs. Melinte won a gold medal in the 800 metres dash as well as the silver medal in the 1500 meters.

Cristian Gatu, World Handball Champion

Mr. Gatu won the World Championship in 1970 and 1974 with national team of Romania. In 1972 he won the bronze medal with the Romanian team. He played all six matches and scored five goals. He also won the European Championships Cup 1977 with Steaua Bucuresti. He is currently the President of Romanian Handball Federation, a post that he has held since 1996.

Ruxana Dragomir, Romanian Tennis Star

For 25 years, Mrs. Dragomir was a professional tennis player. She has won the Romanina National Championship in all three categories, Childs, Juniors and Adults. She has won 7 International Tennis Federation tournaments for singles and 8 in doubles.

Mr. Mark Finlay, Chief Executive Officer of Barnabas Ventures

Mark Finlay is Chief Executive Officer of Barnabas Ventures - the economic development company - people, practical support and property. He is a Trustee/Director at The Presidents' Club, a Non-Executive Director at South Belfast Partnership Board Ltd and currently serves on the Board of Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland.

Mr. Steven Creighton, Finance Director with GRAHAM

GRAHAM is a privately owned company operating in the construction, asset management, property investment and development sectors. With a proud heritage where traditional skills and values are fused with professional management the company has grown to have a turnover in excess of £230M and employ over 1000 people. Steven serves on the Board of Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland.

Mr. John Dunlop - Former Presbyterian Minister and HFHNI supporter

Is one of the most significant figures within Irish Presbyterianism in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From 1978 to 2005, Dunlop was minister of Rosemary Presbyterian Church but with the support and encouragement of the congregational leadership he has exercised a wider ministry in efforts to further better relations between Protestant and Roman Catholics encouraging each community to better understand the other's culture and history.

Fr. Raymond McCullagh, Inspirational Cross Community Youth Leader

Fr. Raymond McCullagh is an ordained Priest and enthusiastic Liverpool Football Club supporter! He has worked as Chaplain at the University of Ulster Coleraine for





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

the last 10 years. Raymond is committed to providing opportunities for young people from across Northern Ireland from different faith backgrounds to work in serving the needs of communities in need at home and around the world. Having led a number of cross-community Global Village teams to Ethiopia, Raymond was instrumental in helping develop Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland's partnership with HFH Ethiopia raising almost £200,000 and funding and building 150 homes over 3 years.

Mr. Tom Kirk

Tom Kirk has served on the board of Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland for many years volunteering both locally and globally. Now retired, Tom previously headed up the NHBC, the National House-Building Council in Northern Ireland. The NHBC has worked consistently to raise the construction standards of new homes and provide protection for new homebuyers. Over the past 40 years, NHBC has protected more than 30% of existing homes in the UK.

