



Habitat for Humanity Canada

Overseas Container Forwarding Inc.

2017 impact report



message from our President and CEO

This past year, Overseas Container Forwarding helped Habitat for Humanity Canada provide a foundation for families to build stronger, more independent lives. Inadequate housing is a global problem that requires a global solution, which is why we support homebuilding and infrastructure projects in developing countries around the world. But none of our work would be possible without the support of generous partners like Overseas Container Forwarding.

One of the things I am most proud of is how Habitat brings communities together – because it's every one of us, working together, that will have the biggest impact on the global housing crisis. With your generous support, we collaborated with local Habitat for Humanity organizations in seven countries to provide sustainable housing solutions that would meet the unique needs of the local families and their communities.

On behalf of Habitat Canada and the families we serve, thank you. Thank you for helping to empower families to build strength, stability and independence. Thank you for being a part of the Habitat family.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Rodgers'.

Mark Rodgers, PhD
President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity Canada



executive summary

In 2017, Overseas Container Forwarding invested **\$50,000** in support of Habitat Canada's work abroad through the Global Neighbours Program and Habitat Global Village.

The Global Neighbours program is a portfolio of rotational grants that aims to grow our organization's international impact. These grants are provided to homebuilding and infrastructure projects around the world, including new home construction, home repairs and improvements, water and sanitation solutions, and homeowner training. With your support, **1,001 people in seven countries** – Ethiopia, Malawi, Cambodia, El Salvador, Nepal, Dominican Republic and Nicaragua – began building stronger, healthier lives for themselves this year.

Your 2017 donation also provided a member of the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association with the opportunity to embark on a Habitat Global Village trip in 2018, building a safe, decent home alongside a local family in need of housing in Vietnam.



Impact in Numbers

1,001 people in seven countries began building stronger, healthier lives for themselves this year.

100 new homes were built in partnership with vulnerable families.

29 families in Nepal are now living in improved homes thanks to home renovations, including structural and sanitary improvements, that ensure families have a safe and hygienic place to call home.

120 more families have improved access to sanitation.

86 toilets – some for individual families, some for communal use among several families – were built to restore dignity and improve health for families and communities in our partner countries.

233 people in Ethiopia, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Malawi were empowered through various training programs, including financial literacy, home maintenance, inheritance rights, and community training for at-risk youth.

// building in Malawi

Empowering Families of People with Disabilities Project

In 2017, Overseas Container Forwarding helped empower hundreds of families like Enifa's and Lucy's in Malawi.

"We struggled for so long," says Habitat homeowner Lucy. The single mother of two is a beneficiary of a Habitat homebuilding project in Malawi, supported by Habitat Canada. The project's goal is to improve the living conditions of more than 60 families living with disabilities in Malawi's Salima District by providing them with fully subsidized homes and ventilated washrooms in their existing communities.

As one of the smallest and least-developed countries in the world, Malawi is suffering from a severe housing

shortage. Ninety percent of the country's population lives in rural areas where typical homes are built with mud bricks, dirt floors, and thatched roofs. The substandard living conditions put many families at risk of contracting life-threatening diseases like malaria, and those living with disabilities are particularly vulnerable.

"My children will grow up in a better house than I did," says Habitat homeowner Enifa, another beneficiary of the project in Malawi. "This has motivated me to ensure that they complete their education so they can help others who are needy."

Like many of the women supported by this project, Lucy





is a single mother who struggled to provide a safe, decent home for her family, and specifically her youngest son, Sileni Frank, who is unable to speak due to intellectual disabilities. He also has physical disabilities, which means he is unable to walk but has adapted to getting around for short distances by crawling on his knees. Not only was it impossible for them to sleep during the rainy season, because their thatched roof leaked so much, but their previously inaccessible house made it difficult for Sileni Frank to complete everyday tasks, like opening the front door or using the toilet, making him even more dependent on his mother Lucy.

Their new Habitat home was also built with her son's disabilities in mind, which has already dramatically improved their day-to-day lives. Her son's physical disabilities meant Lucy never thought her son would be able to open a door on his own. The day she first saw Sileni open the door of their Habitat home was one of her most memorable.

"I am glad my son can now move around the house and open doors without help, which was a challenge in our old house, since he cannot speak – this left him frustrated but now he is happier," says Lucy. Thanks to the design of their new latrine, which has a raised seat, Sileni can use the toilet on his own as well.

Now that her son is more independent in their home and she doesn't have to worry about fixing her roof every few months, Lucy will have more time to focus on her hand-made mat business, which she plans to grow. For Lucy, her new Habitat house is much more than a home – access to safe, decent shelter has given her a solid foundation to care for her son, operate her business, and build a better future.

OCF Sponsored Habitat Global Village Trip

In April 2017, Overseas Container Forwarding set out to find someone from the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA) Community that could represent Overseas Container Forwarding's commitment to Habitat for Humanity Canada, and their Global Neighbours Program. They would do so by embarking on a Habitat Global Village trip, funded by Overseas Container Forwarding, to help a local family in another part of the world build a safe and decent home.

Applications were received and adjudicated by CIFFA through an essay/video contest, and Leia Pengelley of Rodair International Ltd. was announced the winner at the CIFFA Western Gala on September 29, 2017 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver. Although Leia could not attend the event, she did take the time to pre-record her acceptance speech which was shown to the audience on a big screen.

In March 2018, Leia embarked on her Global Village trip, travelling to Quang Nam, Vietnam to build alongside a local family in need of a safe and decent place to live.



“Freight forwarding has been a blessing for me, as it has combined my interests in supply chain and geography. I also speak with many different people from around the world which has further increased my interest in knowing more about their cultures.

This job has been amazing, but my strong will to help others has not diminished. I still want to know what it feels like to deeply make a difference in someone else's life and experience more than just what the corporate world can offer.”

-An excerpt from Leia's submission

fund balance chart

Donations

Overseas Container Forwarding Inc.	\$8,250	03/31/2017
Overseas Container Forwarding Inc.	\$9,810	06/14/2017
Overseas Container Forwarding Inc.	\$13,160	09/27/2017
Overseas Container Forwarding Inc.	\$18,780	12/18/2017

Transfers

Habitat for Humanity Canada's Global Neighbours Program	\$8,250	03/31/2017
Habitat for Humanity Canada's Global Neighbours Program	\$9,810	06/14/2017
Habitat for Humanity Canada's Global Neighbours Program	\$9,460	09/27/2017
Habitat for Humanity Canada Global Village Trip	\$3,700	09/27/2017
Habitat for Humanity Canada's Global Neighbours Program	\$18,780	12/18/2017

Closing Balance

\$0

thank you



On behalf of Habitat Canada, Habitat for Humanity organizations in the countries we partner with, and the families we serve, we would once again like to thank Overseas Container Forwarding for its support and generous commitment to helping families build strength, stability and independence.

We believe in bringing communities together, because together we can accomplish so much more. Working with Habitat Canada, you can have a lasting impact on families who may not have had access to the same opportunities some of us have had, whose lives may have been turned upside down by life's unexpected challenges. Thank you for joining our Habitat community and continuing to support our vision that everyone deserves a decent place to live.

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everyone
deserves a place to call home



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