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Habitat in the News

July-September 2020



Responding to community needs



Angela's Home!

Angela Swamber is visually-impaired; her son Aaron has cerebral palsy and limited mobility. Before they came to Habitat for Humanity, they lived in a dilapidated two-bedroom house, with termite-ridden rafters and gaping holes in the roof itself. Inside, the house was cold, damp and musty; in front of the lone door, a drain full of stagnant water became a murky pool whenever it rained.

With the support of Sieunarine Coosal, Habitat's Capital Campaign Cabinet Chairman, and volunteers from at home and abroad. The Swamber family welcomed the Habitat Trinidad-Tobago team to the Dedication and Key Ceremony in September 2020.

Angela Swamber said, "My Pastor counselled me, he said, "Have faith and keep hoping." And today is proof that my faith and hope in God and Habitat for Humanity were rewarded!"

Sieunarine Coosal: "My company has supported various social projects in this area for some time, and I was drawn to help Angela and Aaron when I heard of their difficult living situation. I am very glad to be able to help them with a finished house, complete with modifications to accommodate their needs."

To learn more about how we work, visit our website at habitat-tt.org



Photo: Sieunarine Coosal, Angela & Aaron Swamber and Jennifer Massiah, Habitat for HumanityTT

Trinidad Systems Limited Foundation collaboration

This project began as a simple micro build, with The TSL Foundation offering to support Chantal in Valencia. Chantal and her 3 children won our hearts when she was introduced to us and shared her journey of overcoming many obstacles to provide for her young family.

TSL is celebrating 40 years of service in Trinidad and welcomed this collaboration with Habitat in serving a family. Habitat hosted 62 volunteers over 6 builds contributing 606 hours. This home was dedicated at the end of September 2020

We are grateful for a fruitful partnership with The TSL Group. Their team is a shining example of the important role Corporate T&T can play to provide a Hand Up!

From the TSL Group: *"It was an absolute honour working with Habitat for Humanity on this project! Thank you for this unforgettable partnership".*



Responding to Community Needs in light of Covid-19 Challenges

In this unprecedented pandemic and taking into account the economy impact this has on low-income households our donors in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity® Trinidad and Tobago, stepped up to the plate by assisting communities with improving to safer and healthier homes and thus, helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

From Sanitation Kits to support our Healthy Housing training donated by Republic Bank Limited “Project Hope”, to laptops from Point Lisas Nitrogen Limited, in support of learning, we were able to make a difference to the lives of so many families during this last quarter.

Habitat Trinidad and Tobago through our disaster mitigation presentations on healthy housing habits teach participants how to make their home, water, and environment safe, and how to support and accommodate your community when preparing for emergencies. This information can be critical to our health ahead of the 2020 hurricane season.

Training over this period included:

- Healthy Housing where we held in 8 sessions totaling 170 persons.
- Disaster Risk Reduction with 140 persons being trained.
- First Family – one session in which 17 home- partners attended.

In this time of need we were honoured to have Social Work students from University of the Southern Caribbean volunteering with us.



Our National Office has a long standing relationship with USC and we are grateful for their continued Support and Solidarity.

If your community or organization would like to host a special discussion, please call 675-1222 or 398-7381 to learn more. You can also visit our Facebook Page @HabitatTNT to contact us to schedule an online meeting.

Republic Bank's Project Hope



Republic Bank Ltd, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity® Trinidad and Tobago to make a difference in our communities by building more resilient homes and neighbourhoods through our multiyear intervention – **Project Hope**.

Habitat Trinidad and Tobago held one initiative held on August 21, 2020 with the presentation of 200 sanitation kits to Dr Allen Sammy, Chairman of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation. These kits will be distributed to the Municipal Police Unit attached to the Regional Corporation, and vulnerable families in the various communities affected by recent heavy rains. Dr. Sammy stated that he is extremely grateful for this timely intervention, especially as cloth masks and sanitisers needed to mitigate against the Coronavirus are included in the kits.



Left to Right: Nerissa Doodhai-Ramdeen: RBL Penal, Dr. Allen Sammy: Chairman Penal/Debe Regional Corporation. Carlene Pooran: Habitat for Humanity TT

Point Lisas Nitrogen Limited supports school communities

Habitat partnered with PLNL again to serve 30 families within their fence line with food hampers to mitigate against the effects of CoVid-19. This follows the 63 hampers and 240 sanitation kits that were provided in the previous quarter.

In answering the call to support students with online classes PLNL again partnered with Habitat and gifted the Orange Valley Government Primary School with 35 devices for use by the students preparing for national examinations.

To learn more about how we work, visit our website at habitat-tt.org



PLNL's President Fitzroy Harewood presenting instrument to Std. 5 student Dana Ramsaroop, of Orange Valley Government Primary School

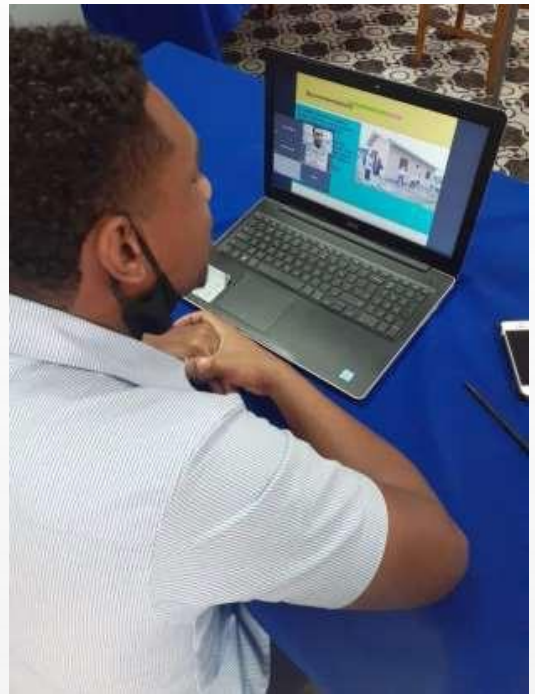
Disaster Mitigation Training

PASSA

With the support of our donors Republic Bank Limited and Proman we were able to deliver the Participatory Approach to Safer Shelter Awareness (PASSA) training programme which is one of Habitat's primary service to communities working on disaster mitigation and resilience. Community meetings and discussions form the core of the process, ensuring that every stakeholder can contribute to improving their living situation within their means, and with the help of corporate of local government entities.

The COVID19 restrictions and the upcoming hurricane season accelerated Habitat's push to impact more people through training across the country.

We quickly pivoted to the available online platforms using blended learning give us the ability to do multiple overlapping programmes in the far- flung areas of the country including Bamboo, Guapo, Valencia, and Vance River, thereby benefitting over 344 persons across these communities.



Jameel Huggins at our online training session.

Disaster Risk Reduction Training

This quarter we conducted 3 sessions with 140 persons being trained.

Participants were encouraged to build their own personal emergency kit "Your **Grab n' Go-Bag**". Do you have yours?

Email jameel.huggins@habitat-tt.org to find out more!

Habitat for Humanity
Trinidad & Tobago

Build your Grab n' Go Bag

Your Grab n' Go Bag should include:

A MINI HYGIENE KIT:

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shaver
- Comb
- Brush
- Towel
- Wipes
- Blanket
- Soap
- Sanitary Pads
- Toilet Paper

Build your grab and go bag with us! Every week using our tips post a photo of your Grab and Go bag using the hashtag #DisasterReady2020 to qualify for our grand prize.

Republic Bank Proman

Construction Training



Republic Bank and Proman support disaster response with the 1st Engineering Battalion

Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago recommenced its local programs after the Covid-19 initial lockdown, with the launch of the Home Construction training exercise at the Cumuto Barracks of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force. The Proman family of companies is backing this project through a multi-year partnership established with Habitat for Humanity International that supports multiple long-term community projects around the world.

A select group from the 1st Engineering Battalion, under the command of Lt. Col. J. Hills, participated in Single-storey Home Construction training over six weeks. The modules, led by construction expert Fleville Tinto, include intensive theoretical discussions and hands-on practical classes on Habitat construction sites.

Jennifer Massiah, National Director for Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago delivered an inspiring message at the opening of the training exercise: *“As Andrew Womack once wrote: “You’ve heard it before: there is strength in numbers. But implicit in that statement is that these numbers work together for mutual advantage. ... (and) ... the stronger the relationship, the greater the things they can accomplish together”*. This philosophy is one of the core pillars of Habitat for Humanity's approach to this project and indeed, to all of our endeavours.

The mandate of the 1st Engineering Battalion is to respond to local disasters and is complemented by Habitat's Humanitarian Shelter Support Role and supported by the deep desire of Proman to *“give back”* to the country and the communities in which they work and live.



Micro-projects for Disaster Risk Reduction

Significant Proman projects are the micro-projects as it holds the potential to serve a significant amount of people and really prove the reach and impact of such.

Retaining Walls

Multiple families can be impacted by one solution such as a retaining wall, the rehabilitation of an existing storm drain and construction of a new one can translate into a reduction of the probability of land slippage for a trail of families downstream. These are the type of solutions Habitat Trinidad is partnering with community-based contractors to achieve significant disaster risk reduction and resilience in their communities.

Here we have one of the retaining walls of this quarter Jul-Sept.



Backfilling and completion of retaining wall



Rainwater Harvesting

Here we were able to intervene with the provision of a water management solution that is targeted at minimizing the advancement of a land slippage due to heavy rainfall that has threatened this homeowner for many years.

Soil saturation, a major cause of land slippage is caused by heavy and concentrated downpour of water on a specific soil surface area; a solution comprising of a guttering and water storage system (seen above) was designed to channel the large amount of water that is collected by the roof away from the soil and into a storage tank; excess water is then filtered into the drainage system.

Critical Resilient Solution - Repairs

This home suffered severe damage from a fallen tree during a period of extremely high wind, flooding and heavy rainfall.

The incident rendered the homeowner's bathroom inoperable, blocked the main drain on the property and also resulted in the collapse of the structural wall (which was constructed poorly).



Habitat Trinidad conducted an assessment and went to work on a more resilient solution for the homeowner, utilizing structural load bearing blocks, structural corner stiffeners to adequately support the structural load from both a wooden and steel and any unforeseen load stresses from another disaster; A wooden roof, made hurricane resilient by the use of hurricane straps.

The intervention under this project has provided the homeowner with a structure that can now stand resilient to a future disaster.



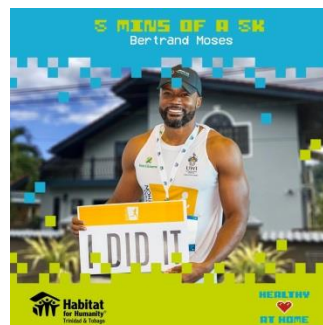
Resilient solution with roof secured via hurricane straps

What have we been doing?

This quarter we launched our Virtual 5K.

With every step you took in our Virtual Run you brought us one step closer to supporting another family with shelter.

Bertrand Moses joined us for our 5 Mins of a 5K as we went about our mission in support our Virtual Run



Our National Director and family warming up for their leg of the 5K challenge.

What you can do now...

DONATE

Habitat Trinidad & Tobago accepts online donations at our website <https://www.habitat-tt.org/donate-now/>. We accept tax deductible donations through wire transfers. Please contact our Resource Development officer at: donate@habitat-tt.org for our details.

VOLUNTEER

Join one of Habitat's scheduled Global Village volunteer trips to Trinidad and Tobago or lead your own. For more information, go to: www.habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac or email us at: volunteer@habitat-tt.org

TITHE

Habitat affiliates in the U.S. can establish a tithe partnership to help support our programs. Quote TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO on checks or wire transfers sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 322 West Lamar St., Americus, GA 31709

CONTACT

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CORPORATE MEMBER BENEFITS



2 construction information sessions for staff



Staff assessments for Habitat products (conditions apply)



Covenant partners can have access to tax concessions (conditions apply)



#RealLifeHeroes

Habitat for Humanity Trinidad & Tobago

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY 2020

Celebrating our own in-house heroes who make all that we do possible.

#StaySafe
#StayAtHome
#NowMoreThanEver
#WeNeedYou

Donate!
Build!
Volunteer!
Share!
Speak out!



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