

Program Highlights

February 2010

- From February 5-6, students, teachers and International Student Fellows from King's Academy went to Ghor Al Safi just prior to one of the GV Teams in February and spent Friday afternoon and Saturday morning building walls at the Salem Al Shuar family home. They arrived on one of the coldest days but still overcame the elements to build 6 walls almost 4 blocks high learning the tricks of building very quickly under the capable instruction of builder Abu Darar and our staff, Romel Ziadeh.
- On February 7, David and Jennifer Coats arrived with their GV team of Canadians to Ghor Al Safi to continue work at the Salem Al Shuar family home on a hill overlooking the Dead Sea, a home addition of 2 bedrooms, a kitchen and a bathroom. Just days before the Coats' team arrived in Amman, the northern parts of Jordan were blanketed with snow and weather hovered around the freezing point, but Ghor Al Safi did not fail and true to its past the weather warmed and the team had four sun filled days building walls, tying rebar and making cultural visits with a local family and to Wadi Numera and Lot's Cave through February 11.



King's Academy in Ghor Al Safi



The Coats' Team, Canadian GV Team, in Ghor Al Safi

- On February 24, after receiving approval from the Ministry of Social Development, cooperation agreements were signed with Al Taybeh and Al Mokhaba Al Tahta. The new partnerships were featured in both communities' newspapers and Abu Rami, the chairman of Al Taybeh, was interviewed by the local radio and television stations where he shared with listeners and viewers details of the association's partnership to build with Habitat for Humanity Jordan and how the community of Al Taybeh would benefit from this new partnership.

March 2010

- Habitat for Humanity Jordan transferred funds to Al Taybeh and Mokhaba al Tahta to begin serving families in need in both local partner communities. Since funds were transferred, projects were started and some already completed; 51 projects in Al Taybeh and 26 projects in Mokhaba Al Tahta. The housing projects include repairs, maintenance, additions and roof pouring.

Program Highlights (continued)

- In an effort to transition all local partner communities into the Middle East Loan Tracking System (MELTS), Thomas Stocker, our National Director and Sharif Sami, our finance officer continue to visit our partner communities providing training and assistance. Yasser Shaar, MELTS program developer and HFH Lebanon Finance Manager joined them for a week in March to verify that the tracking program has been incorporated successfully into each partner community's financial system.
- From March 14 -18, Steve Pressley and his Greensboro Affiliate Team worked on the walls for the Issa Al Dgamat family house. Volunteer Coordinator for HFHJ, George Clarke and Program Coordinator Mohammed Malkawi assisted the team through their training and initial stages of construction, but the team worked so well together they were setting blocks like seasoned builders by the end of the first day. Randy Soucy, a local Peace Corps volunteer provided translation services from Tuesday through Thursday and was a wealth of information on local sites and activities. Highlights of the trip were the breakfast and dinner delights cooked up by Anna and Masoud Awartani. As with other groups, the Pressley Team visited Lot's Cave, Wadi Numera and the women's craft Jamaia. At the Thursday afternoon dedication, Steve Pressley spoke of the partnerships between Christian and Muslims and presented photos to Sheikh Suliaman and homeowner Maryam plus a prayer shawl from the Greensboro group.



Steve Pressley Team



Volunteers in Salhoub

- In March, Habitat for Humanity Jordan staff and local volunteers worked two weekends on two homes in Salhoub, near Amman, clearing rubble and installing plumbing to assist homeowners Iyad Zreiqat and Ahmad Zreiqat move toward their dream of moving into homes of their own overlooking the hills north of Amman. There is still a lot of work to do, but volunteers seem willing to line up and do their part.
- Habitat for Humanity Jordan received approval from the Ministry of Social Development to begin its retail lending program. HFH Jordan opened an account with The Housing Bank for Trade and Finance on March 22 to offer retail lending to homeowners of HFHJ's partner communities in Greater Amman.

Key Facts

640 families served
155 loans paid off
\$1,214,089 housing fund
89% on time repayment within 90 days

Our Supporters

A special thank you to our generous supporters this past quarter

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Homeowner Story: Nihad Piggybacked Her Home On Top of Her Mother-in-Law's



Homeowner Nihad and her daughter

In Jordan, it is not uncommon to see finished homes that have rebar extending past the concrete foundation columns. In many cases, a new home will be built on top (theoretically the second floor) of an existing home for another family member. This is the case for homeowner Nihad and her husband, Mohammad. Nihad's home was built on top of her mother-in-law's house.

Prior to owning a Habitat home, Nihad lived at her mother-in-law's house with ten other people. Her husband, three daughters and she all lived in one small room. This room also served as storage for her and her family's personal belongings. The room was so cramped that she could barely open the window to get fresh air. The dampness and humidity affected her health.

Looking to improve their living condition, Nihad and Mohammad qualified to get a loan for a new Habitat home. As part of their sweat equity contributions, Nihad and her husband moved the materials needed to build their new house to the construction site, built the foundation columns of their home and installed the electricity.

With an income of 280 JOD (US\$395) a month, Nihad and Mohammed have a monthly loan repayment of 55 JOD (US\$77). They have been paying their loan for over a year now and in an effort to finish paying off their loan quicker; Nihad makes sure that every month they pay an extra 5 JOD (US\$7), a total monthly payment of 60 JOD (US\$84). Not only is Nihad savvy enough to insist on paying an extra 5 JOD (US\$7) per month, she is already looking ahead to the future and thinking of ways she can make some extra cash to add a new room to her Habitat home.

And what does Nihad think is the best part of owning a Habitat home? She says she now has a place to call her own, her health has improved, she has the freedom to wear what she likes, she can choose to cook the foods she likes, she does not have to wake up early to help her mother-in-law, and she can sleep in if she wants to. Isn't life grand?



Nihad's living room, kitchen and bedroom

Alone We Can Do So Little; Together We Can Do So Much – Helen Keller

Let's Build Together; Join us on a Global Village Build in Jordan