

## Program Highlights

### April 2011

- King's Academy students returned to Al Taybeh for another volunteer activity. They spent the night of April 1<sup>st</sup> at the community and helped the Fawarseh brothers complete the walls of their future homes and poured lintels. After a hard day's work, Abu Rami, Al Taybeh' chairman, invited the students to his home for a BBQ.
- Students and chaperones from the British International School of Jeddah were in Mokhaba Al Tahta from April 11 through the 21<sup>st</sup>. The 16 volunteers built a home for homeowner Na'eam Mohammed Qryyan and his wife Rasha. The team mixed cement, built exterior and interior walls and poured lintels. In addition, the team experienced Jordanian hospitality when they were invited to have dinner at a Habitat homeowner's home. They also visited the ruins of Um Quais and got to see the Al Himmeh area, close to the Jordan, Syria and Palestine borders while sipping tea at a local's home.



*King's Academy students in Al Taybeh*



*BISJ Students in Mokhaba Al Tahta*

- On April 16, Jabal Natheef celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> family served. Congratulations, Jabal Natheef!
- The American Community School went to Mokhaba Al Tahta on April 30 to continue work on Na'eam Mohammed Qryyan's house. The students finished the walls and poured lintels.



*Jabal Natheef celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> family served*



*ACS students in Mokhaba Al Tahta*

### May 2011

- Team leader Andrew Knight and his team of 10 volunteers were in Mokhaba Al Tahta from May 7 through the 12<sup>th</sup>. They helped build a home for Nasha't Ahmad Mohammed and his wife Eman Hassan. The team focused on building all the walls, but took time to enjoy some cultural activities. They visited the ruins of Um Quais, had dinner at a Habitat homeowner's home and the ladies in the group learned how to cook Jordanian food when they helped the homeowner's wife, mother and sisters in the kitchen.

Homeowner Nasha't Ahmad Mohammed and wife Eman Hassan are both 19 years old. They are expecting a child. Nasha't is in the army and has a salary of 290JD a month. Eman is a housewife. Nasha't and his wife live with his father and mother and share the kitchen, bathroom and living area with his parents, one brother and two sisters. Nasah't's future house is being built above his father's home; it will be the second story.

- Team leader Paul Thibault jumped in and helped fellow team leader Jacquelyn Williams when she had an accident and broke her leg. He took on the GV team of 9 with just a little over a month away from the build date and did a great job.

His team was in the community Al Taybeh from May 15 through the 24<sup>th</sup>. They helped build a home for Mohammed Fahed Al Khateeb and his wife Eman Eshdeafa. Both Mohammed Fahed Al Khateeb and his wife Eman Eshdeafa are 22 years of age. They are expecting a child in September. Mohammed is in the army and has a monthly income of 270 JD. Mohammed and his wife live in his father's home and share it with his father's 2 wives and 4 children. Mohammed's house is being built on top of his father's existing home.

Paul and his team mixed cement, built interior and exterior walls, cut and bent rebar and prepared the wooden platform for the roof. Paul's team stayed a week and a half and had Friday and Saturday off which gave them time to visit Jerash and Pella. They also visited the ruins of Um Quais, enjoyed 2 barbecues, one in Tell-al-Arbaeen and had dinner at the home of a local Al Taybeh community member.



*Andrew Knight and his team in Mokhaba Al Tahta*



*Paul Thibault and his team in Al Taybeh*

- On May 22, Wesley T. Milner, director of the University of Evansville International Studies Program along with assistant professor Daniel Byrne and students visited our Habitat office. They were given an overview of the work Habitat does in Jordan and visited our partner community Jabal Natheef to look at some projects.
- The American Community School participated in another volunteer activity on May 28, but this time in the community of Al Taybeh. They continued work on Mohammed Fahed Al Khateeb's house and worked on the putting the rebar and concrete blocks on the roof's wooden platform for the concrete roof pouring.



*ACS students in Al Taybeh*

### June 2011

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on June 9 with Jamiat Basmet Kher, a women's jamaia that operates in Salt, west of Amman.
- A Jordanian homeowner was featured in the current summer edition of Habitat World magazine. Below are links to Habitat World online and to the "Coming Home" feature which includes a photo essay of the Jordanian homeowner.

Link to the magazine online:

<http://www.habitat.org/hw/default.aspx>

Link to the Coming Home feature:

[http://www.habitat.org/hw/coming\\_home/Coming\\_Home\\_June2011.aspx#PO\\_0](http://www.habitat.org/hw/coming_home/Coming_Home_June2011.aspx#PO_0)

#### Key Facts

**1552 families served since 2001**  
**139 families served in Q4 (Apr – Jun 2011)**  
**500 loans paid off**  
**\$1,725,428 housing loan fund size**  
**94% on time repayment within 90 days**

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## **Homeowner Story: At home: Abeer Esheabat & Tisear Nawayshah**

*Story by Phillip Jordan and Photos by Ezra Millstein*



***Abeer Esheabat and her 2-year-old son  
Ahmad***

On most mornings, Abeer Esheabat awakens and cleans her home before making breakfast for her children. Soon, she will walk her oldest daughter to school. Before she does, however, Esheabat usually takes a moment to look out one of her windows.

Below her stretches Ghor al Safi, the town she lives in along Jordan's western border. From her house situated in the hills just east of the city, she can see past town to the tomato fields that spread orderly westward, toward the lowest point on earth - Jordan's ancient Dead Sea.

"I still love the view," she says. "When I wake up, I am so happy to look out my house and see this scene below."

Habitat Jordan often shares joyful stories of families who are just moving into new homes. But in revisiting families who partnered with Habitat years ago, it's even easier to see how safe, decent housing can transform a family's situation. Esheabat is part of one of those families.

Back in 2006, Esheabat and her husband, Tisear Nawayshah, were still living with his family - cramped inside an older house that was home to 18 family members. "That house was so full, and so narrow, that we had to line up together to sleep," Abeer said. "We had to keep our shoes at our heads at night because there was no room for them elsewhere."

The young couple had lived there for five years when Esheabat heard about Habitat Jordan from some Habitat homeowners. Determined to create a healthier living environment for her growing family, Esheabat visited Ghor al Safi's jamaia - a locally based community group that Habitat Jordan partners with to reach families in need.

Habitat Jordan's local staff and volunteers helped her get started. Soon, a pair of Global volunteer teams - one from the United States and one from Saudi Arabia - arrived to



## *Homeowner Story: At home: Abeer Esheabat & Tisear Nawayshah (Continued)*

work alongside Esheabat and Nawayshah. Most of the volunteers mixing cement, carrying blocks and bending rebar on that trip were women, a fact that impressed Esheabat.

“I was surprised it was all women. They were so active, so much energy,” she remembers. “And they all got along so well.

“I still miss them. I enjoyed building with them. I remember that all the time. We made jokes and laughed and had a lot of fun.”

By 2007, the house reached completion. In the four years since, the couple’s household has grown. They now have three young children: Sami, Enas and 2-year-old Ahmad, the youngest child, whom Esheabat holds while talking to guests. The house has wavy lines of plaster - the visual effect is her idea - a porch and a water tank on the roof.

“It’s a big, big difference between what we had then and what we have now,” Esheabat says.

It has also provided peace of mind as her husband works a new job. Today, Nawayshah feels comfortable leaving his family in a safe place of their own. He has a job with the army now, providing security at the Queen Alia International Airport in Amman. He works five days there and then is off five days. It’s a trade-off, but the job offers stability and Nawayshah is able to be at home for significant stretches of quality time.

And while he is away, Esheabat can always turn to her husband’s relatives for company or assistance, if needed. Some of them have moved to different houses as well, but most are all still in Ghor al Safi. It’s nice to have relatives near, Esheabat says, but after all those years in close quarters, she’s also OK seeing them only every week or two now.

“Being a little farther away is better,” she says with a laugh.



*Ghor al Safi, near the Dead Sea in  
Jordan*

