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HFH-KSU Rehabilitation Project

Khujand State University (KSU) is one of the biggest universities in Tajikistan, with more than 12 000 students studying in 15 faculties. It is suffering from the severe "brain drain" of qualified professors and teaching staff. Over the last decade, due to low salaries and inadequate housing, nearly 400 staff have left the university.

The Khujand State University has a partially completed nine-storey apartment building, which Habitat for Humanity together with KSU and partner families is renovating into decent, affordable homes to retain 54 university staff at the university.



Photo by HFH-Khujand

27 apartments of the building are under renovation for the first phase that will end by the end of June 2006. None of them are so far completed but all are at various stages with window and door installation, water, sewerage, plastering, electricity installation, flooring and glazing etc.

Habitat for Humanity and Khujand State University are planning to finish this project by September 9, 2006. It will be good gift to partner families by 15th Anniversary of the Independence Day.

Habitat for Humanity Dushanbe

Habitat for Humanity - Dushanbe has started its activities in South of Tajikistan in December 2005. Now HFH-Dushanbe constructing 13 homes for families in need of Vahdat city. HFH-Dushanbe has signed the agreement with local authority of Vahdat city, based on which Habitat will partner with needy families constructing simple, decent and affordable



Photo by HFH-Dushanbe

Future new homes in Vahdat

homes.

FACT SHEET

- Number of active affiliate: **2** (HFH-Khujand & HFH-Dushanbe)
- Years started: **1999**
- Number of homes built: **106***
- Average house cost in Tajikistan: **USD 4864**
- Population: **6 863 752** (July 2003 est.)
- Capital: **Dushanbe**
- Area: **143 100 km²**
- Languages: **Tajik, Russian**

* as of March 2006

New Land Project

While Habitat only commencing its presence and activities in the south of the country, in north Tajikistan the 100th Habitat home was celebrated in September 2005. One of the most obvious reasons for such a dynamic growth and success of the program in Sogd region is the solid and perspective collaboration established by Habitat with regional and city government. Authorities acknowledge the housing problem as one of the vital issue of today and see Habitat as an only organization in the region actually addressing this by building and renovating with and for families simple and decent homes. The recent example of this appreciation was the allocation of 11,5 hectare of land by Khujand City Government to HFH-Khujand. Today 7 hectare of land has already been leveled and the construction of 8 homes in this plot of land started. According to the planned schedule of activities by the end of June 2007, thirty two homes will be finished in this new site. Habitat and City Government seek for involving

partners to accomplish the infrastructure of this new micro district. NSIFT (National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan) expressed



interest and intention to allocate grant of \$100 000 for power supply project of this site. At the moment project design estimates are submitted to NSIFT and the last decision is envisaged to be made by the end of April. Habitat welcomes and appreciates every partner who wants to contribute and partner with Habitat in turning this desert place into flourishing district bringing real change in the life of the community and its people.

New Breath In Our Life

Tajiks – is a nation with extended families. Parents bring up numerous children with the special hope to marry them and give them a place to live, Mastona Shodieva said. But unfortunately today to have a home in Tajiki-



Photo by HFH-Khujand

Mastona Shodieva's family

stan became unaffordable for many young families. We are also a young family who faced the desperate need for decent place to live. Three families used to live in one house; our family, our parents, brother's family and younger single brother. Once from my colleges I heard about Habitat, organization helping families in housing need to build their own shelter. We knocked Habitat door and were warmly received and explained about the organization, its mission and goals, principles and family selection criteria. As it turned out we also could follow Habitat family selection

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criteria and were offered to fill the application form and go through set of procedures. What a joy we experienced to know that we became the partner family of Habitat. Three room apartment in the ground floor with plot of land was something beyond of our dream but Habitat gave us hope and helped us to realize our dream. Decent home with adequate living size and plot of land gave new breath to our life. We grow fruit trees in our garden and constructed small cow-house where we breed cows. The milk and dairy products we have is enough both for our own consumption and

selling. So, it will be true to say Habitat enabled us not only to have decent place to live and grow our children but also to start small business to support our family.

For sure this is a gift we didn't deserve even though we worked together. On behalf of my family I want to express sincere gratitude to Habitat and all the people contributed to help our family to have our own home. Thousands of families today dream of such a miracle to happen in their life. Therefore I wish Habitat to grow and prosper bringing people hope for better future.

A Country Measure Of Its People

“A country is measure of its people. This cannot be true for Tajikistan,” said Vasie Papadopoulos, second Global Village team member. “As I stepped down in Khujand, Tajikistan on July 17th 2005, I traveled to this country, as I hadn't before to other countries; without a pre-conceived notion of what I should expect.



Photo by HFH-Khujand

Vasie Papadopoulos with HFH-Khujand homeowner

It was terribly trying from the on-set to even discover any information on the region of Central Asia, let alone Tajikistan, and so, I thought it best to be as open as possible. I knew I was in the enviable position of traveling to a region that little been reported on, but one that for so long represented the cross-

roads of history, an encapsulation of empires created and destroyed. And it is this fascinating, some time turbulent history, that truly characterizes this country. Yet, there is a sense of resilience that surfaces in every Tajik, a sense that the future is hopeful.

This cannot be more evident with the work of Habitat for Humanity. I was part of the second international team to participate in a Global Village build in the country. The Khujand-affiliate has laid out ambitious plans to build both new housing and renovate old abandoned buildings for families in the region. They are tackling their projects with great vigor and energy. From the onset, the hospitality that greeted Habitat group and myself was spectacular. From our superb dwellings, to our lavish and some times overdone meals, to the curiosity and openness of those in contact with us, I always felt at ease, always welcome. And my whole time in Tajikistan, safety was never an issue. The Khujand Habitat team ensured our well being at all times, even assisting in the difficult task of getting us in and out

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of customs. And if that wasn't enough, our GV coordinator, Fakhridin Kuziboev, made it a point to be flexible and attentive to our needs, not matter how big or small. It was a truly satisfying experience, one that if you are open, curious and ready to work in some times trying temperatures, is an experience well worth a trip to that part of the world. I

only hope that Khujand, and Tajikistan as whole, continues to receive international groups to help Habitat for Humanity attain the goal of providing decent housing for deserving Tajiks. You get a feeling that real change is waiting to happen in Tajikistan – change that has started with the work of Habitat for Humanity's Khujand-affiliate."

Support Habitat for Humanity Tajikistan

If you want to support HFH-Tajikistan program to provide needy families of Tajikistan with simple, decent, affordable habitation, you may do it in four ways:

1. Send check to Habitat for Humanity International: 121 Habitat Street, Americus, GA 31709-3498. Please do not forget to put HFH-Tajikistan fund code: i6840 to memo line.
2. Transfer your donation to our bank account: "Habitat for Humanity-Tajikistan" Dushanbe, OJSC "Bank-Eskhata", Acc. # 22604840300001000000, Swift: EJSATJ22, ABA: COBADEFF, corresponding acc. # 40088641100
3. Donate online on HFHI website: www.habitat.org/giving/online.html Please enter "Tajikistan" in appropriate box.
4. Participate in Global Village Program: build homes alongside with needy families. Please visit <http://www.habitat.org/gv/> to learn more about GV program.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

HFH-Westchester, New Rochelle NY, USA
HFH-Detroit Lake Area, USA
Whirlpool Corporation, Germany
Motionsoft Inc., USA
GV Teams lead by Wanda Smith and Hugh Mitchell
HFH-Khujand homeowners

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