



# HABITAT *for* HUMANITY NORTHERN IRELAND

*Building More Than Just Homes.  
Building Hope.*



**T**he Ireland Funds have been supporters of Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland for many years. Donors have visited and volunteered their time and hammers to raise homes and bridge communities. Here, Chief Executive Jenny Williams shares a report on how that work is adapting in order to further Habitat for Humanity's mission in Northern Ireland.

Since 1994, Habitat Northern Ireland has been committed to building a shared future for Northern Ireland by bringing volunteers from across our communities together; delivering real impacts in places where division has left deep scars. Habitat has been a catalyst in breaking down social and religious barriers, building social cohesion and new relationships; building homes, building communities, building hope.

Support from The Ireland Funds has been both an important encouragement and vital enabler of our work; 20,000 volunteers; 100 homes; 9 neighborhoods where Habitat has helped change the future.

These last couple of years have been a real struggle for Habitat NI as we have navigated our way through a changing environment, and for Northern Ireland where too many people continue to cling to the past. In poverty division remains almost absolute, and the legacy of our past has been very visible most recently as people protest over flags—ugly protests uncovering the deep divisions which, despite all the positive progress, remain.

Building new homes for ownership in the middle of the worst recession for years just isn't possible so there were mixed feelings when we dedicated our Templemore Avenue homes last August. But the heart of our work has always been about more than houses.



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We have seen over and over that when people work together on a practical project real change is possible. As we continue to bring people together to help build a shared future we build community and hope. Working in partnership with local homeless charity, Simon Community, we are able to continue to make a real impact for people in need locally and more than 200 young people come together every year as part of our Schools Programme which challenges young people to play their part in changing the future.

In challenging economic times and with an increasing need to be environmentally sustainable we have opened the first Habitat ReStore in Europe, in Lisburn. Just 6 months in and sales, donations and volunteers are already exceeding our expectations. The ReStore is a new hub for our work; a place where the community meet together; a place where low income families are able to improve their homes at a price they can afford and where new relationships are being

nurtured through intentional volunteer programmes. We have 45 volunteers from across the community working every week. We have been focused on providing opportunities for vulnerable or marginalized young people; giving them new skills, partnering them with ‘buddies’ retired volunteers who have so much to give; working together to build community capacity and confidence.

There are plenty of challenges, we need to be more sustainable and in the meantime we need more support but we see real progress and seeing people change brings real joy.

Hope has not gone away, in all of this we see a clear path for peacebuilders—almost as if the ugliness on our streets is deepening the desire in many people for this place to have a different future.

We need continued support as we continue to deliver real impacts through practical engagement, serving those in need, reaching across the divisions to build a shared future for our land.



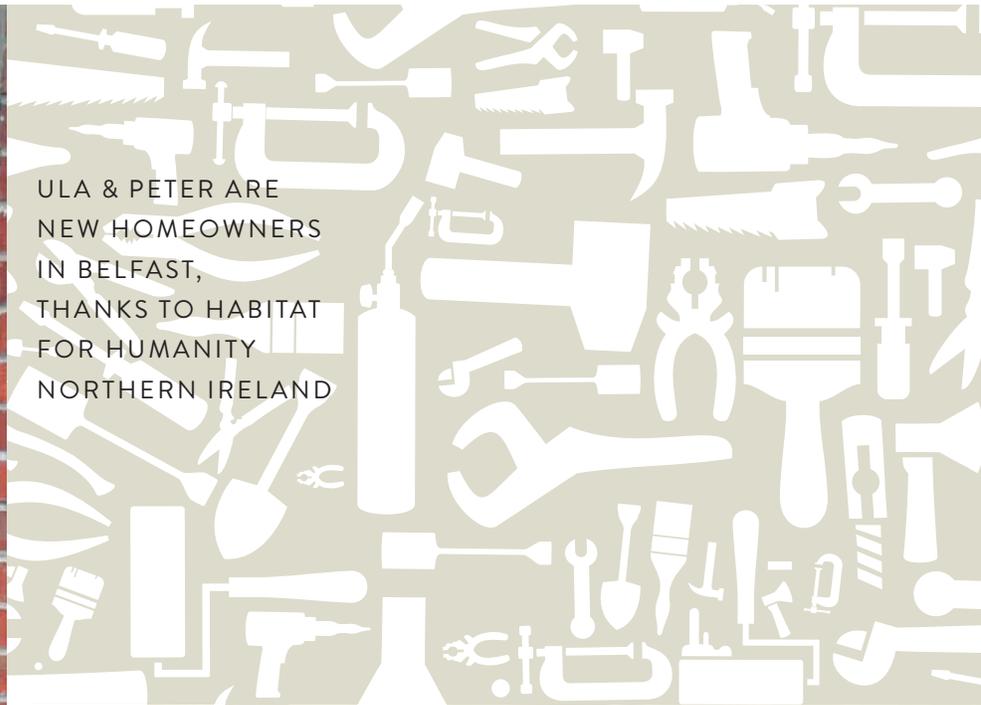
*The new ReStore in Lisburn. The first Habitat ReStore in Europe.*



*Citibank Staff provided the extra hands ReStore volunteers needed to get the ReStore ready for opening.*



ULA & PETER ARE  
NEW HOMEOWNERS  
IN BELFAST,  
THANKS TO HABITAT  
FOR HUMANITY  
NORTHERN IRELAND



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*Jenny Williams.*

*Chief Executive of Habitat for Humanity, Northern Ireland*