

Memorandum of Understanding

Habitat for Humanity & AASSA

As an expression of our commitment, the Latin America and Caribbean Area Office of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI/LAC) and Association of American Schools in South America (hereafter AASSA) agree to the following memorandum of understanding for the period starting May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009.

Habitat for Humanity



Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since 1976, Habitat has built more than 200,000 houses providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for 1 million people. The international website is www.habitat.org and/or LAC www.habitatlatino.org

In Latin America Caribbean, Habitat works in 22 countries and has served approximately 86,000 families.

AASSA



AASSA is a non-profit membership association currently serving fifty-one American / International schools throughout South America and offshore islands. AASSA is administered by an executive director who employs a professional staff to assist with publications, in-service programs, grant management, purchasing, shipping and accounting.

The association serves as a structure through which personnel in member schools can plan cooperatively to attain common goals and to solve mutual problems. AASSA seeks to broaden the dimensions of education and to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in member schools.

A major part of AASSA's efforts is devoted to annual in-service programs for overseas school personnel. Their website is www.aassa.com

Primary Objectives

- Cultivate global citizens who are concerned and active in eliminating poverty housing by providing social conscious service-learning opportunities to interact directly with families in need and be part of the solution.
- Continued personal and skill development of youth within South America through their interaction and involvement with Habitat for Humanity-LAC.
- Expanded scope of volunteers, resources and support for those in need of adequate housing in the Latin America/Caribbean region.

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Accepted Responsibilities:

Habitat for Humanity- LAC

- Promote the creation of this MOU as well as the AASSA association with any Habitat National Offices interested in collaborating with an AASSA school.
- Provide the AASSA associate a list of contacts and curriculum resources for youth involvement in Habitat programs per country by mid April 2008.
- Proactively have a defined period of creating opportunities for Habitat and AASSA staff to interact and exchange service-learning ideas that will not exceed May 30th, 2008.
- Coordinate on-site opportunities for students to participate in the construction of Habitat homes. This includes the pre-build orientation, on-site safety precautions and community exchange with partner families. This arrangement is geared toward high school youth, ages 16 to 18 according to the appropriate construction activities that follow HFH guidelines and standards.
- Create and diffuse several interactive pre-build workshops and a Regional Campaign for students to participate in and learn the complexity of poverty housing. Main contact for this will be Mitssy Rovira, Regional Volunteer Coordinator at MRovira@habitat.org

AASSA

- Promote the creation of this MOU as well as the Habitat for Humanity-LAC with any AASSA school interested in collaborating with national level Habitat program.
- Provide Habitat with a list of contacts for service learning coordinators in AASSA schools per country by mid April 2008.
- Proactively create opportunities for Habitat and AASSA staff to interact and exchange service-learning ideas. Main contact for this will be Paul Poore, AASSA Executive Director at paul.poore@gmail.com
- Endorse Habitat for Humanity as a positive service-learning opportunity, both in classroom curriculum as well as with hands-on building. Resources for AASSA teacher provided at http://www.habitat.org/youthprograms/int/default_teacher_youthleader_resources.aspx

Specific Goal:

Habitat for Humanity-LAC and AASSA schools will collaborate in the education of students regarding housing needs and possible solutions to address poverty housing in their specific country. The students will organize fundraising efforts to sponsor Habitat houses and will actively participate in the construction of these particular homes. The accumulation of these activities will engage students in the elimination of poverty housing in their own country.




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Expected Results:

- A. Minimum 5 collaborative efforts in countries where AASSA and Habitat are both present.
- B. Participation of minimum 50 students and 25 parents within the AASSA region in the fundraising for a minimum of 3 Habitat homes.
- C. Contribution of a minimum of 350 hours by students and parents on the construction site of an AASSA sponsored Habitat home.
- D. Publication in Habitat media of a minimum of 3 articles by students, parents or teachers regarding their experience in helping alleviate inadequate housing.

Although the structure of the project that each AASSA school will create with Habitat may vary, it is highly recommended that it contain the following elements:

	<p>Curriculum Inclusion: The issue of poverty housing can easily be included in curriculum subjects (http://www.habitat.org/youthprograms/int/default_teacher_youthleader_resources.aspx). Examples might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics: calculating and square footage per person in homes around the world, the housing deficit in their community • Science: investigating alternative building materials and designs or the recipe for cement. • History: How houses have changed over time, what, if anything, is universally included in a house. • Social Studies: what defines a “house” and what defines a “home”
	<p>Fundraising: The active participation of students and parents in fundraising to sponsor not only a house, but truly change lives, is a large component in learning the complexity of inadequate housing solutions. They will be able to visually see the impact in lives and the result of their efforts.</p>
	<p>Construction: Students not only will be an active part of the organization of the funds to build a house, but the actual construction of it. They will appreciate the efforts required to do so as well. Team building among students, parents and teachers is often a side benefit as well. The construction tasks and roles assigned to the students will depend on their ages and interests and is geared toward high school youth, ages 16 to 18 according to the appropriate construction activities that follow HFH guidelines and standards. Other activities for younger students may be designed.</p>

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Methodology:

It would be highly recommended that the project coordinator in the AASSA School take the following suggestion or steps into account when planning an alliance with Habitat:

1. Presentation by Habitat of its mission to parents, teachers and students.
2. AASSA schools' teachers consult with Habitat's Youth Programs curriculum resources and work with local Habitat in implementing them.
3. Students research the housing situation in their own country
4. They present Habitat with a proposal on how to become involved and if they would like to be part of the Regional Campaign.
5. Once the proposal is approved by the local Habitat Office, students are fully responsible for the fundraising ideas, organization and accounting to sponsor a house.
6. Students and parents actually go to Habitat offices to deliver funds/ take photos/ promotion, etc.
7. Participation on Habitat build and participation in Habitat World Day Campaign on October 6th, 2008.
8. Review or evaluation of process

Read by both parties this document is signed on May 8, 2008.

In representation of Association of American
Schools in South America:

In representation of the Area Office for Latin
America and the Caribbean of Habitat for
Humanity International:

Paul Poore, Executive Director

Mitssy Rovira, Regional/Local Volunteer
Coordinator