

meet our Habitat Greater Ottawa volunteers!

Brynn

Global Village Volunteer



In August 2019, I ventured up north to build with my Global Village team in the Yukon. For those of you who aren't familiar with the Global Village, it's an opportunity for volunteers to build safe, decent and affordable housing for families in countries all over the world, including Canada. I was interested in volunteering for a GV trip, as I hoped to make a difference by giving back to different communities. I knew this experience would provide a new perspective on life while also allowing me to gain valuable life skills.

For our GV trip, we were a strong team of 18 comprised of other Ottawa volunteers and local tradespeople. We were up there for one week, building four new units for four families. Our team got so much work done in just a week. Before this build, I had never even held a hammer, but a few days later, I was using nail guns, saws, and building entire walls!

Working alongside my fellow volunteers and future Habitat homeowners was the most memorable part of my time. We became close over just one week. On the last build day, we built an entire wall from the ground up in three hours. We then finished it off by signing the wall we built, writing our well-wishes for the families as well as our thanks and gratitude for this experience. It was a very emotional moment, as we were all sad to leave.



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This trip was an opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and to really see what I was capable of. Not only did I learn some hands-on construction skills. I also grew as a person and developed my communication, leadership and collaboration skills.

Several of my team members went on multiple GV trips, and I can see why! It's such a rewarding experience, you definitely get hooked. I will never forget my time at Habitat and how good it felt to be making a difference for families who need a safe and affordable home.



Please note all domestic and international Global Village trips are cancelled for the remainder of 2020 due to COVID-19. If you are interested in finding out more about the program and to sign up for a future trip please visit:

<https://habitat.ca/en/volunteer/build-globally>