

ArcelorMittal South Africa Solidarity Holidays 2012

Day 5: Friday, 30 March 2012

The ArcelorMittal SA Foundation in partnership with Habitat for Humanity hands over 10 houses to needy families in Orange Farm

For one week, from 26 to 30 March ArcelorMittal volunteers have been building homes for low-income families from Orange Farm in Gauteng. The construction process started from scratch – from mixing mortar and laying bricks on the first day to putting up roofs on the last day.

Rio Matlhaku



The ArcelorMittal South Africa Foundation today handed over ten newly built houses to families who previously lived in shacks in Orange Farm, South of Johannesburg.

600 local employees were joined by ten international colleagues from countries as varied as Macedonia, Ukraine, France, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Poland and the Czech Republic in a week long project to build the houses.

The ArcelorMittal Foundation launched the Solidarity Holidays Programme in 2010 to offer ArcelorMittal employees the opportunity of spending part of their annual leave volunteering in a Foundation project overseas.



Maggie Mopedi, Acting Manager, Corporate Social Investment at ArcelorMittal South Africa says it is gratifying that ten more houses could be added to the, 26 houses that have been built in previous years. As a Company we are humbled and equally proud that we have been a part of changing the lives of these families.

Maggie says she is proud of the energy and drive shown by ArcelorMittal staff and their international colleagues. The camaraderie and comradeship makes the hard work so much easier and fun

This year marks the fourth year that the ArcelorMittal South Africa Foundation has partnered with global NGO, Habitat for Humanity to provide homes in one of Gauteng's underdeveloped areas. To date the Foundation has built 36 houses since 2009, the highlight of which was when the keys to her first house were handed to a 101 year old granny four years ago.



Present during this year's Solidarity Holiday - an ArcelorMittal Foundation initiative that encourages employees to spend part of their annual leave in foreign countries helping perform good deeds - was the Foundation's CEO, Ms Felicidad Cristobal.

(Centre in white) Asier Marquina (ArcelorMittal Foundation Project Manager for Western Europe and Africa) and Felicidad Cristobal (ArcelorMittal Foundation CEO) with Pieter Mogoere and Maggie Mopedi (Acting Manager, Corporate Social Investment ArcelorMittal South Africa) and international volunteers (Back): Roslan (Ukraine), Marcos (Argentina) Fabio (Brazil) Johan (France, Milan (Czech Rep.) and Ana (Spain) (Front): Fernando (Brasil), Aleksandra (Belgium), Valerie (France) and Velika (Macedonia)

Trevor Molefe, Gauteng Manager at Habitat for Humanity says the organisation's partnership with ArcelorMittal South Africa has changed lives for the most families in Orange Farm. Trevor says the 36 houses built by the Foundation will provide decent housing to more than 180 people in the area.

Orange Farm is a township 45 kilometres South of Johannesburg. It started as an informal settlement in 1988 and was formally established in 1990. Today, it has almost a million residents. Most of them are on very low incomes, are affected by AIDS and lack access to decent sanitation or water. Habitat South Africa has been working in the area since 1987. To date, it has served almost 1,000 families in the province.

The ArcelorMittal Foundation has been a partner of Habitat for Humanity since 2008. The world's top steelmaker has teamed up with Habitat to build and renovate hundreds of homes as well as creating a groundbreaking steel-framed model for a durable, safe and affordable home. In addition to that, ArcelorMittal has been sending its employees to volunteer at Habitat projects around the world, in amongst other places, Senegal, Mexico, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago and Macedonia.

For more information contact:

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About the ArcelorMittal Foundation

Created in 2007, the ArcelorMittal Foundation is a non-profit organisation focussed on developing projects that benefit the communities in which ArcelorMittal is present. The ArcelorMittal Foundation operates in 30 countries.

Every year, the Foundation supports around 580 projects which are aimed at maximising the potential of each community, respecting their specific needs and empowering the local resources. Furthermore, the ArcelorMittal Foundation promotes entrepreneurship by helping people to develop their own talents.

Its main areas of activity are Education, Health and Community Development. The Foundation also has a standing commitment to offer immediate and urgent help to communities affected by emergencies and promotes the participation of the ArcelorMittal employees in different social projects.

ArcelorMittal Foundation website: <http://www.arcelormittal.com/corp/corporate-responsibility/arcelormittal-foundation>

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization that seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Since 1976, Habitat has served more than 500,000 families by building and improving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. An estimated 17,000 of these families are in Europe and Central Asia, where Habitat has been active since the mid-1990s. For more information, to donate or to volunteer, please visit www.habitateurope.org.