



*“There is no shortage of housing problems
- what is needed are solutions.”*

**Peter Elderfield, founder,
Building and Social Housing Foundation**



Rural Housing and Environment Programme, Gram Vikas - India.

#40yearsBSHF

www.bshf.org

A catalyst for positive change

The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) was established in 1976 to identify positive and inspirational examples of good housing practice and to share those examples with others.

BSHF encourages better housing for people with few housing choices by

- identifying and promoting great practice in housing
- bringing people together to transfer solutions and ideas
- facilitating programmes leading to positive change

Through the work of BSHF a global network of innovative organisations has been developed and they share the organisation's aim of achieving positive change for people with few housing choices.

Whether developing new technologies, housing finance mechanisms, community development approaches or urban renovation programmes, the organisations BSHF has worked with over the last 40 years have achieved outstanding results in their efforts to address a range of housing issues.



Comprehensive Community Development for Poverty Alleviation, Bhutan (Finalist 2015)

Identifying and promoting great practice in housing

Through research, the World Habitat Awards and wider networks, BSHF is in a unique position to spot innovative housing ideas and projects from around the world which are delivering positive change for people.

World Habitat Awards

BSHF established the World Habitat Awards in 1985 as its contribution to the UN International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Each year two awards (in conjunction with UN-Habitat) are given to projects that provide practical, innovative solutions that address housing needs, with a particular focus on decent, affordable housing. More than 250 outstanding projects have been recognised over the years, demonstrating substantial, lasting improvements in living conditions that can inspire others.

These projects make up an extensive collection of creative housing solutions which are available on the BSHF website at: www.bshf.org

The World Habitat Awards competition is open to any individual, organisation or government agency and looks for approaches that

- demonstrate practical, innovative and sustainable solutions to housing issues
- can be transferred or adapted to other areas

In addition to receiving global recognition, World Habitat Award winners also receive £10,000. Entries can be made online at www.worldhabitatawards.org



What our winners say about winning the World Habitat Award



“For us in Gram Vikas, winning the BSHF World Habitat Award was a watershed in the journey of Gram Vikas. We realised that our habitat approach with an all-inclusive emphasis was the right way to go. We have a long way to go but are now more clear about the way ahead.”

Joe Madiath, Chairman, Rural Housing and Environment Programme, Gram Vikas India (Winner 2003).

“I want to say how much I respect all of BSHF's efforts in lifting up worthy organizations and innovations that few people would otherwise notice, often because they occur in the most impoverished places.”

John Davis, Advisor to Caño Martín Peña Community Land Trust, Puerto Rico (Winner 2015) and Vice President of Champlain Housing Trust (Winner 2008).

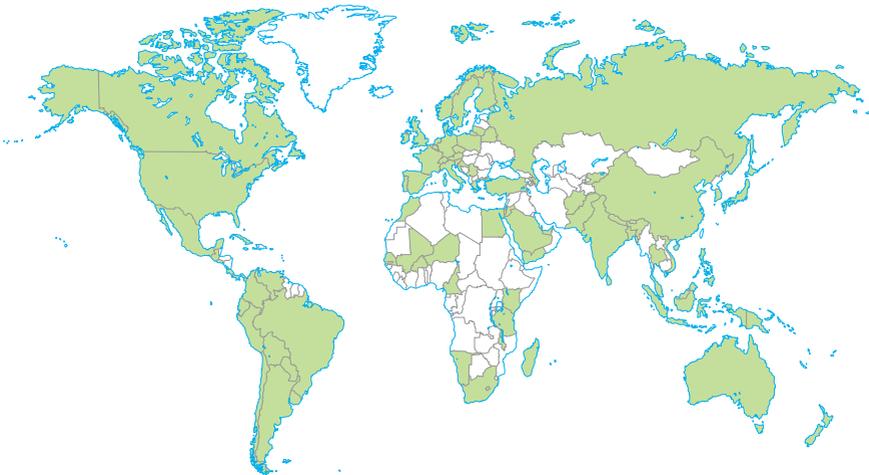




“For FUCVAM the experience was extremely positive, both the Award and the following Peer Exchanges. It showed us that the world is one and that even if distance separates us, the struggle for decent housing unites us and requires the commitment of all of us.”

World Habitat Award winners from Uruguay reflecting on their experience of winning an Award and hosting Peer Exchanges (Winner 2012).

1985-2015: World Habitat Award finalists from over 80 countries



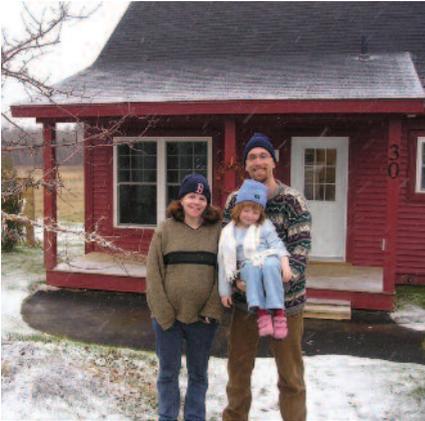
Bringing people together to transfer solutions and ideas



Peer Exchange to Y Foundation, Finland in 2015

As a follow-up to the World Habitat Awards, BSHF organises a Peer Exchange to the winning projects in order to support the transfer of knowledge and experience around the world. The exchanges are open to housing practitioners, researchers or policymakers with an interest in transferring ideas. Bursaries are available to enable participants from a range of countries and organisations to attend.

The exchanges provide a practical, in-depth understanding of the technical, social and financial aspects of each award winner. As a result of the exchange, many of the participants adapt and transfer relevant elements of the approaches to their own housing context.



Champlain Housing Trust, USA
(Winner 2008)

In 2009, the Champlain Housing Trust in the USA hosted a visit from 24 participants, from 14 countries. The Champlain Housing Trust is an early pioneer of the Community Land Trust (CLT) approach of providing affordable housing in perpetuity. As World Habitat Award winners and hosts, they have supported the growth of Community Land Trusts around the world.

One of the participants on the Peer Exchange was Geert De Pauw, from Brussels. He said:

“The visit was inspiring and essential in developing the first Community Land Trust in Belgium. The visit went much further than we could have imagined. It was so refreshing to see people so open to sharing everything they have developed over years. The information and support we received enabled us to convince the Belgian Authorities that Community Land Trusts were possible.”

Another attendee was Dave Smith from East London CLT He said:

“The visit was transformative – putting me in the company of people who knew how to develop a CLT, who shared their experience and their contacts – putting us in touch with a wider network of international CLTs who have helped us at critical points in our development.”



Peer Exchange to Champlain Housing Trust,
USA in 2009



Community Land Trust Brussels, Belgium

Facilitating programmes leading to positive change

The European End Street Homelessness Campaign

Through the World Habitat Awards BSHF can learn from the best housing projects across the world. In 2013, one of the award winners was the 100,000 Homes Campaign. Over four years, the campaign mobilised 238 communities across the USA to house over 100,000 chronically homeless people.

Other award winners focusing on ending homelessness include the Y-Foundation in Finland. This organisation has shown how Housing First can be adapted for a European context, and has demonstrated the impact sustained and co-ordinated action can have on homelessness at a national level. Street homelessness in Finland has nearly been eradicated.



100,000, Homes Campaign, USA
(Winners 2013)



Y-Foundation, Finland
(Winner 2014)

In almost every European country homelessness is increasing. The most visible and distressing sign of this is the growing number of people sleeping on the street. BSHF is now working with cities across Europe to develop a campaign to end street homelessness. The aim is to end street homelessness in participating European cities by 2020. One of the cities involved is London in the United Kingdom. Petra Salva, Director of Street Homelessness and Outreach services at St Mungo's in London, said:

“Putting an end to rough sleeping is an ambition worth having. I don’t know how we can have anything else? I’ve had enough of being told it’s not possible... I’ve had enough of seeing people dying on our streets alone and scared and feeling forgotten.”



250 volunteers at Valencia Registry Week, part of the European End Street Homelessness campaign

As part of the campaign hundreds of people have been recruited by local organisations to take an active role in the drive to end homelessness in their city. They are part of a new movement in each city that seeks to break the status quo and permanently end street homelessness.



Surveys taking place during Registry Weeks in Barcelona (left) and Croydon (right)

Community-Led Housing

↳ **Community-led housing is where people and communities play a leading role in making their own housing solutions - creating sustainable, affordable and lasting homes, building resilient and confident local communities, helping people to develop skills they never knew they had.**

BSHF has a long term interest in supporting the development of community ownership of land and buildings around the world.

BSHF has seen that in many countries community-led housing delivers thousands of homes, but in the UK it delivers less than 1%. Since 2014 BSHF has been working intensively with many different organisations to proactively support the growth of community-led housing across the UK.

Through a programme - funded by the Nationwide Foundation - BSHF is focused on building momentum for community-led housing in England, but also on developing networks for knowledge sharing and exchange across Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and beyond.



*Lilac (Low Impact Living Affordable Community), UK
Lilac is a self-planned and managed co-housing community in Leeds, England, which has at its heart a strong focus on living sustainably and communally.*



Volunteers from the community preparing a property to be let in Hull, UK.

The long term goal of the project is to help shape and influence the infrastructure which supports and delivers community-led housing in England so that more people are able to access it. BSHF is working with a wide range of organisations and individuals to share positive practice, raise awareness, build and strengthen capacity and create lasting change.

Even though community-led housing accounts for a tiny proportion of homes in the UK, there are still many inspiring examples of what can be achieved when people take control over their housing.

Hundreds of community-led housing organisations exist in the UK and the number of people interested in solving their own housing issues is growing.

A final word from David Ireland, Director, BSHF



Over the last 40 years there have been rapid social, economic and political changes around the world. Here at BSHF we have continued to adapt and respond to these changes; reflecting the pioneering spirit and practical nature of our founder, Peter Elderfield.

Partnership has been vital to our work and without the dedication and support of a network of innovative organisations and individuals; BSHF would not have been able to make the impact it has.

It is clear that in these rapidly changing times, there is both a need and an opportunity to continue to build on these partnerships, sharing knowledge and experience, learning from proven solutions to common problems and together achieving lasting impact. In order to do this, we need more people to get involved, sharing their experiences and supporting efforts to transfer and adapt good ideas.

In April 2016 we launched our new website and we hope this will enable us to build on our worldwide community as well as promote the most innovative housing ideas and best practice from around the world. On our website you can find out more about BSHF, the organisations we work with and you can also sign up for our e-bulletin.

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