

AROUND THE WORLD

HEROES ON THE MOVE, SPREADING GOOD WORKS GLOBALLY

HOMES OF HOPE
“My wife says that Homes of Hope is a gateway drug to a life of service,” jokes founder Sean Lambert. She’s right: HOH’s “most dedicated” volunteer has returned 75 times to projects like this one in Jinja, Uganda.





Sean Lambert
**BUILDING LITTLE HOUSES
 IN OVER 21 COUNTRIES**

'LIKE A DREAM,' IN 3 DAYS A YOUTH MINISTER AND HIS CREW CAN GIVE A FAMILY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD A HOME—AND A FUTURE

By November 2010 Erick Ochoa had “lost all hope,” he tells *People*. He was living in a windowless 6-ft.-by-6-ft. shack in Tijuana, Mexico, with his wife, Josefina, and two children. The entire family slept on a mattress on the dirt floor and went to the bathroom in a hole in the ground. Then, “like a dream,” Erick says, everything changed. Eighteen students from Calgary, Alta., descended on the site of the family’s home. Two days later the Ochoas were given the keys to their new house—a modest wooden structure with windows, three rooms, a bathroom, beds and an oven. “For the

TEAM BUILDING

Building homes for the poor across the globe sent Homes of Hope founder Sean Lambert (inset) to Panama, building for “an indigenous family that came out of the Darien jungle nine years ago,” he says.

first time we felt secure as a family,” Erick says. “We cried tears of joy.”

The Ochoas received their home through Homes of Hope, a program of Youth with a Mission San Diego/Baja (YWAM). Since its founding by Sean and Janet Lambert in 1990, the organization has built more than 5,320 homes in 21 countries with help from more than 105,000 volunteers. As Lambert explains, the homes are small—on average ranging from 16 ft. by 20 ft. to 20 ft. by 20 ft.—but their impact is enormous. “Children who come back to a home are three times more likely to stay in school,” Lambert says. “Getting people off of dirt and onto concrete floors reduces respiratory problems and just makes the family so much healthier.” More than anything, Lambert says, the homes transform these families’ lives by changing their thinking. “The real curse of poverty is an inability to think properly about your own future,” he says. “When somebody has a home, they immediately parent differently.”

Families are connected with Homes of Hope through local governments, churches and community leaders. The group prioritizes families with children because, as Lambert explains, “every child should grow up in a home.”

Five years after receiving a home of their own, Josefina and Erick are working to help the organization interview and select recipient families. “We want to multiply the great things that others have done for us,” Erick says. “We want other families to have a roof over their heads and to feel the same hope and security that we now have. We want other families to realize that God loves and cares for them.”

||| **HOW TO HELP:** ywamhomesofhope.org

Marsha Wallace
**A POTLUCK NETWORK
 TO EDUCATE AND
 FEED WOMEN ABROAD**

WITH CASSEROLES AND CONVERSATION THEY ALSO RAISE FUNDS FOR OB/GYN CARE, SAFE HAVENS AND JOB TRAINING

In 2003 Marsha Wallace wanted to celebrate her birthday with more than the usual dinner out with friends. So she invited 25 pals to her home, asking each to bring a dish to share and \$30 to donate to a worthy cause. “I knew that if we helped only one,” it would make a difference, said Wallace (below center). “You never know what the ripple effect will be.” Sometimes pretty big waves. Wallace’s Dining for Women has grown to 424 chapters internationally, with 7,946 members raising \$5.16 million so far for women’s and girls’ programs in 47 countries. They’ve also formed a strategic partnership with the White House and the Peace Corps on their Let Girls Learn Initiative, aimed at the problems preventing adolescent girls from completing school in the developing world. “I am overcome with the suffering,” said Wallace, a nurse and mother of four. “I want women to get what they need.”

||| **HOW TO HELP:** diningforwomen.org





Team Rubicon FROM WAR ZONES TO DISASTER ZONES

TRAINED TO KEEP COOL IN TOUGH SITUATIONS, THESE VETERANS GO WHEREVER THEY CAN BRING HEALING

Watching the destruction brought about by the 2010 Haiti earthquake unfold on TV, Jake Wood felt he had to help, and the former Marine, who had done combat duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, knew just the guys for the job. Four days later Wood, his former-Marine pal William McNulty and several other veterans and medics were in Port-au-Prince, digging people out, setting broken bones, delivering babies. “Veterans,” Wood says,

||| **HOW TO HELP:** teamrubiconusa.org

“know what to do in a crisis.” So was born Team Rubicon, Wood’s network of some 35,000 volunteers who deploy as quick-response squads, bringing rescue and basic medical aid to disaster zones from war-torn Sudan (2011) to the Philippines following a 2013 typhoon. In April they traveled to Quito, Ecuador, hit by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake. Why continue to put themselves in harm’s way? “It’s about being part of something bigger than yourself,” McNulty says. “I do this because I like serving humanity.”



THE A TEAM

Top: Rubicon cofounder Jake Wood (center) with (from left) Andrew Stevens, cofounder William McNulty, Cal Verdin and Joshua Webster.

STORM TROOPERS

When monstrous Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines, Team Rubicon deployed to help rebuild under the name Operation: Seabird.

Mark Palm FLYING THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO SAFETY

IN A REMOTE AREA OF 500,000 PEOPLE AND JUST ONE HOSPITAL, THIS PILOT’S MEDICAL PLANE IS A LIFELINE

Since *People* first told the story of Mark Palm and Samaritan Aviation, the medical-emergency flight company he runs in Papua New Guinea in the remote South Pacific, Samaritan is flying even higher. “We now have a second pilot,” says Palm, with a third on the way—and the first medical director. With the help of the Papua New Guinea government, a second floatplane was also procured to help serve the 500,000 people living in the East Sepik province, which has just one hospital. A recent highlight? Responding to an emergency call involving two women in labor. “By the end of the day,” relates Palm, “both of the mothers had given birth to healthy, thriving twins. Six lives were saved in this single flight!”

||| **TO LEARN MORE:** samaviation.com



FAMILY PLAN

The Palms—Mark, wife Kirsten and kids Drake, Sierra and Nolan—spend six months in the U.S. every two or three years. “There is always an adjustment period.”

FULL PARTNERSHIP

“I couldn’t do this without my wife,” says Palm. “Kirsten will drive the ambulance from the plane to the hospital, and she stays with the patients.”

