

THE 13 HOUSES CAMPAIGN

WHEN WILL THE CAMPAIGN BE LAUNCHED?

A pilot is due to start in September 2018 and will take place in a variety of countries with different geographical, cultural and economic challenges to solve as well as different levels of financial and human resources.

The global 13 Houses Campaign will be launched on the 28th of November at the FHA Conference in Rome. The Campaign will initially run for three years, with most projects likely to be implemented in the second half of 2019 up until 2021.


WHERE TO GET INVOLVED?


You can join the FHA and get involved in the Campaign on vfhomelessalliance.org or on our social media platforms on Facebook and Twitter. By joining the FHA, you will receive regular updates new developments and progress. You will also have access to a wide range of resources, including access to the IGH hub and experts, to help the creation of 13 Houses projects.

We invite all members of the Vincentian Family to become a part of this global expression of solidarity and to use this concrete opportunity for collaboration to “devote ourselves with renewed love to serve persons who are poor, and even to seek out those who are the poorest and most abandoned” (St. Vincent de Paul).

HELP US END HOMELESSNESS – ONE HOUSE AT A TIME.



 vfhomelessalliance.org

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The Famvin Homeless Alliance



13 Houses Campaign

WHAT IS THE 13 HOUSES CAMPAIGN?

The 13 Houses Campaign is a movement born out of the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA) and shares its mission to reduce and, where possible, end all forms of homelessness in the countries in which the Vincentian Family works.

It is inspired by St. Vincent de Paul's commitment to the poorest of the poor and by one very special project that changed the lives of thousands of abandoned children: The 13 Houses.

He built these small houses in Paris and rented them to the Ladies of Charity so that they could care for these children in collaboration with the Daughters of Charity.

Considering the tragic reality of an estimated 1.2 billion women, men and children without a home, we believe that the need for such innovative projects remains just as relevant today as it was then. St. Vincent de Paul's 13 Houses are hence at the very heart of this Campaign that hopes to bring a home to thousands of refugees, internally displaced persons, street homeless people and slum dwellers around the world.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE AND HOW?

Our objective is the development of 13 Houses in every country where the Vincentian Family has a significant presence – bringing a home to 10,000 people who are currently without sanctuary.

Our aim is ambitious, but we believe in the strength, creativity and commitment of the Vincentian Family.

Some branches have the capacity to develop 13 physical houses that will become a home to the most vulnerable in our communities.

However, above and beyond that goal, the 13 Houses need to be seen as an allegory for providing the very things they initially stood for in Vincent's time: safety, community, warmth, hope and a future.

In some localities this could take shape through the development of a community hosting service for the elderly homeless, or the distribution of family tents to offer humanitarian aid whilst more permanent solutions are sourced. In yet again other places it might be the refurbishment of derelict flats, and in some it might simply mean that the poorest are welcomed around the table for a warm meal and care.

We believe that national or local partnerships of the Vincentian Family are best placed to agree a way forward as their understanding of the local environment is invaluable in creating a project that ultimately helps those that are in most desperate need. There are no constraints and prescriptions as to how the 13 Houses should look like. It could be a new project or an existing one that has been revisited under the perspective of this Campaign. We only ask that they address an urgent need and have a systemic and long-term view.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

There are many different ways in which to get involved in the 13 Houses Campaign and any help is greatly appreciated as we rely on the ingenuity of the entire Vincentian Family.

1. CREATE A 13 HOUSES PROJECT

Any 13 Houses project will start with an idea – no matter how big or small. If you have seen people in your community that experience some form of homelessness we invite you to reflect about St. Vincent de Paul's work and ask yourself: What can I do?

Talk about it to people within your community - these could be persons in leadership positions, people who are willing to offer advice and most importantly: the people you would ultimately like to help. Also, find out about already existing projects in the wider community as ideas might link in well with currently available services.

The FHA is in place to support branches and individuals along the way. We can provide project development tools; link you up with experts and other members of the Vincentian Family for support.

2. SUPPORT THE SOLIDARITY FUND

The Solidarity Fund has been set up to support poorer branches to receive the vital funds needed for them to realize their 13 Houses projects. By donating money to the Solidarity Fund, you help us to offer financial assistance to the countries and branches that need it most. You could raise funds by organising a collection in your church, do a bake sale, set-up a Just Giving page, do a fun run or invite your family and friends for dinner and ask them for a contribution. Any donation will make a difference and could bring a home to someone in desperate need.

The Solidarity Fund is held and distributed by The Congregation of the Mission International Fund.

3. VOLUNTEER YOUR EXPERTISE

If you have in-depth knowledge in a specific field, you could make that expertise available to the wider Vincentian Family. Many individuals and groups have big ideas but lack the resources needed to bring them to life. Your expertise might be what is needed and could help to bring a 13 Houses project to the next level.

4. BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Support the 13 Houses Campaign by talking about it to your friends, church group or work place. Help us to raise awareness of the scale of global homelessness by sharing articles on social media platforms and by encouraging people to join the FHA and get involved in the 13 Houses Campaign.

We want to ensure that the world is aware of the 1.2 billion people currently experiencing the dreadful reality of having no place to call home, no place providing sanctuary.