

Housing First at Habitat for Humanity





Habitat for Humanity Hungary

- Established in 1996 with a Jimmy Carter Work Project in Vác
- 149 new homes
- 550 renovation
- Education and construction technical advice: 1300 families
- Habitat Resource Center in Roma segregated settlements
- Housing first for homeless of Budapest
- Advocacy

Homeless in Hungary

- Only estimates but 15-30 thousands
- A few thousands rough sleeper (3-5 000)
- In the last five years about 50 000 people spent some nights on the street
- Decrees to outlaw homeless person living in the street
- Homeless people were fined, taken into custody for
- Demolition of self built shacks



Our Housing First approach

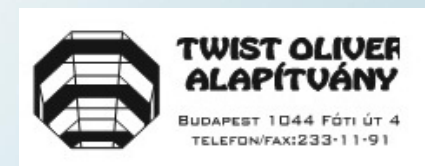
- Social housing is very rare, but can be affordable
- There is 15 000 empty flats owned by local municipalities (plus more than 350 000 private owner)
- Most of them are in very bad condition, not suitable for living
- So we renovate them with the help of volunteers and homeless people
- We provide intensive social work, additional services



We are working in a big coalition



- Twist Oliver Foundation (street social work)
- Hungarian Red Cross (street social work)
- From the Street to a Flat Association (case management)
- Municipalities (providing social rentals)
- Volunteers (100-200)
- Supporters, companies, donors





Housing First at Habitat for Humanity

- Helping shanty dwellers to housing after Danube floods
 - Donor: Aktion Deutschland Hilft
 - Renovation costs, social work, advocacy, PR, management
 - Timing: mid 2013 – mid 2015
 - Participants: rough sleepers in flood zones of Danube
 - Flats: 2+5 (Budafok, Újpest)
- „Auntie Virág” (*Auntie Flower*)
 - Donor: „Auntie Virág”, online campaign
 - Timing: mid 2014 – mid 2015
 - Participant: Pista
 - Flat: 1 (Zugló)
- Housing First - Project for the homeless of Budapest
 - Donor: Fundacion Abbe Piere and Saint-Gobain Initiatives
 - Renovation costs, social work, PR, management
 - Timing: 01.01.2015. – 31.12.2016.
 - Participants: rough sleepers living on the streets of the cooperating municipalities
 - Flats: 2+3 (Kőbánya, Újpest) in 2015, 5 in 2016



Housing First - Project for the homeless of Budapest



Aims and Objectives:

10 (social rental) flats for 10
2015-2016 (plus 3 years)

Work with volunteers

Using as much elements of
„housing first” approach as
possible (depending on funding)

Building partnerships with local
municipalities

Working in partnership

Proving our project to be
effective

Proving rough sleepers to be able
to live independently in homes

Advocacy - sustainability





Lessons learned

municipalities engaged to the program, their trust can be gained

importance of making „real homes” for the participants: their involvement to the renovation work is crucial in the process of transforming their life

experience in how odd jobs can influence the sustainability of social rentals: regular and predictable income is needed





„I was praying for that for years... I will give thanks
to God after moving in... I need to find a church”
„Hey, you are lucky: there is one next door...”



„I made my nail polish last evening, so they [administrators of the municipality] wouldn't think I'm a ,dirty homeless'...”



Thank you!

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