

ArcelorMittal South Africa Solidarity Holidays 2014

Ten international volunteers, 39 locals and five days in South Africa

Ten volunteers representing the ArcelorMittal Group landed in South Africa, each with a suitcase full of eagerness to give their best and make a difference. The ArcelorMittal Foundation Solidarity Holidays 2014 are officially underway.

During the week our international volunteers will work together with around 40 local colleagues, including management at our South African operations and members of the surrounding communities to build six Protea houses for people in need in Blaauwbosch, a poor area close to our site in Newcastle. Most people in the region have lost either a friend or a family member to HIV/AIDS.

Designed by ArcelorMittal's research and development (R&D) team, the Protea housing system has several advantages such as low cost but high quality, an insulated structure and easy installation. The 40m² houses will be equipped with an open plan kitchen, a lounge and two bedrooms each.

The volunteers arrived at the work site on Monday, 24 March and after a safety demonstration got busy with their first task: assembling and install the panels of the houses. All of the volunteers were moved when they saw with their own eyes how much the community needs well built houses and what a difference these would make to the life of the beneficiaries.

Helena Massaquoi, Social Services Assistant Manager at ArcelorMittal Liberia has been working for the company for three years and is currently on the ground in Blaauwbosch. "It is an amazing experience to be a part of a team that puts a smile on the faces of a family in need. It is also an opportunity to learn how a house can be built in two days with a steel system. For me the best part has been dancing along with the beneficiaries who are excitedly awaiting the completion of the house."

In the coming days, the team of volunteers will, among other things, put the ceilings in place, tile the floors, paint the walls and



Helena Massaquoi, Social Services Assistant Manager at ArcelorMittal Liberia volunteering at Blaauwbosch



Ishwar Singh from Newcastle Works - currently volunteering at Blaauwbosch but soon off to Mexico as part of the ArcelorMittal Foundation Solidarity Holidays initiative

clean the houses. They will get everything ready for the handover ceremony due to take place on 28 March, when the keys of four other houses – built in December 2013 – will be also given to their new owners.

Collaboration: Asier Marquina, ArcelorMittal Foundation Regional Manager for Africa and Western Europe, and the team in South Africa: Kesebone Maema, (Corporate Communications And Branding Manager; Gracious Maswangani Corporate Responsibility Specialist at ArcelorMittal Newcastle and Maggie Mopedi, ArcelorMittal Foundation Correspondent for South Africa).