



# Volunteers head to South Africa for 'Building Blitz'

MORE THAN 2,000 volunteers for the Niall Mellon Township Trust will depart from Dublin tomorrow to help build houses in the township of Khayelitsha in Cape Town, South Africa (pictured right).

Speaking ahead of the trip, entrepreneur and founder of the trust Niall Mellon said: "This is the largest group of volunteers ever to leave the shores of Ireland, it is an historic occasion."

According to Mellon, the trip "demonstrates the deep commitment of Irish people to help the less fortunate, wherever they may be."

Over 10,000 houses have been built by the trust in Cape Town's townships since the charity's inception in 2002.

"This would not have been possible without the help of so many Irish people," Mellon

added. "In light of the economic downturn in Ireland, I am particularly proud of the effort all of them have made to come on this year's trip. This brings the total number of Irish volunteers who have worked in the Niall Mellon project to over 5,000 since its inception in 2002."

Mellon also praised the volunteers for the large sums of money they raised for the trip.

"As we embark on sixth annual 'Building Blitz,' our largest to date, I am humbled by the generosity and spirit of the Irish people and in particular of our volunteers, who are the cornerstone of this charity," he said. "A large number of our volunteers are from the construction sector. We are deeply humbled that they have worked so hard this year to raise the target of €5,000 each.

"Many of these people have had a tough year personally, some of them have been let go from their jobs, and despite all of this, their determination has shone through and they have worked extra hard to raise the €5,000."

