



## 11,000 things to smile about

NIALL MELLON is all smiles – and with good reason. The businessman is pictured with school children from the town of Mbekweni in South Africa where volunteers built homes for over 900 people.

Some 500 Irish volunteers are winding down this year's building blitz in the Cape Town area. The project came to an end yesterday after a week of frenetic activity.

The charity project that Mr Mellon began seven years ago has now built over 11,000 houses. "I am particularly proud that so many Irish people have played a part in

building houses for those who so badly need them," said Mr Mellon.

"We are determined to not let the recession dampen our ambitions to provide more homes every year for people living in shacks and everyone in Ireland should be proud of these volunteers for the effort they have made to improve the lives of some of the world's poorest people."

Over the last two months the charity has established 26 county volunteer club branches throughout Ireland and plans to establish another six next month.

