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## **Fundraisers go “over the edge”**

Intrepid fundraisers abseiled down the side of Portsmouth Housing Association’s 20-metre high Peninsular House to support homeless people in the developing world.

Sixteen employees from across the group and four friends took the leap of faith to raise money for the UK-based charity Homeless International, which supports slum communities in Africa and Asia.

Professional instructors trained the 20 before they abseiled one-at-a-time in groups.

The day was organised by Goizeder Cotano, community development manager at Portsmouth Housing Association (PHA), who has been heavily involved in fundraising for Homeless International for many years.

Goizeder said: “We had a great day, despite the windy conditions. Everything went according to plan. I would like to thank the abseilers and everyone else who helped with the day.”

Group employees sponsored the abseilers. When all the sponsorship money is counted it is hoped around £1,000 will have been raised.

Employees at PHA, part of the First Wessex Housing Group, have taken part in fundraising treks for Homeless International since they started in 2000 and have raised more than £20,000. The treks are organised every two years and the charity has just announced Trek 2009 to Tamil Nadu, India.

For further information visit the charity’s website: [www.homeless-international.org](http://www.homeless-international.org)

**The accompanying photo shows PHA’s Goizeder Cotano starting her sponsored abseil**



**For further information, please contact:**

Steve Henwood, Senior PR & Communications Executive

Email: [steve.henwood@firstwessexhg.co.uk](mailto:steve.henwood@firstwessexhg.co.uk)

Telephone: 023 92896762

**Notes to Editors**

First Wessex Housing Group manages around 17,000 affordable homes primarily in Hampshire and with some activity in Surrey.

The group comprises Atlantic Housing Limited, First Atlantic Housing, Pavilion Housing Association, Portsmouth Housing Association, Fernhill Care Limited and Wessex Property Limited.

Portsmouth Housing Association: provides homes in Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport and Havant. It also provides a wide range of community regeneration services across South East Hampshire.