



LOCAL CONTACTS:

Jeff Capps
Greater Memphis
Habitat for Humanity
901-761-4771 (wk)
901-497-7022 (cell)

Linda Hill
Lutheran Community Services Specialist
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
866-293-6629 (wk)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Local family among 500 whose lives have been changed
through unprecedented alliance**

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity has helped 500 families build affordable homes in 45 states, completing nearly one home per day in last two years

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (October 9, 2007) –The impact of two non-profits working together to build hundreds of homes in just two years is certainly evident in Memphis. This fall, Memphis Habitat is building a new home, from the ground up, with a Memphis-area family in need, through support from the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity alliance. Through this alliance, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided approximately two-thirds of the funding for this home with local Thrivent members and Lutheran churches and Memphis Habitat raising the remaining one-third. **That home is being celebrated as Memphis Habitat's milestone 300th home, since the affiliate's inception in 1983.**

This four-year \$105 million alliance between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International has taken just two years to achieve the historic 500-home milestone. This compares to the first 500 homes that took the two organizations 15 years to build together prior to the Thrivent Builds alliance.

"The Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity alliance is a powerful force for good," says Memphis Habitat executive director Dwayne Spencer. "It not only inspires community members to take action, it provides much needed support."

This unprecedented alliance was designed to help increase Habitat for Humanity's ability to build more affordable housing and to offer an important way for Thrivent Financial's nearly 3 million members to give back to their communities. To date, Thrivent Builds has increased Habitat's U.S. building efforts by nearly six percent and has also helped build additional homes in other countries through the *Thrivent Builds Worldwide* program.

“Substandard housing is a long-standing social problem,” added Linda Hill, Lutheran community services specialist for Thrivent. “Thrivent Financial members have helped Habitat for Humanity build affordable housing for seventeen years, but this alliance has provided a way for us to help build more homes at a much faster rate.”

A special celebration will highlight the 500th Thrivent Builds home on October 13, representing the hard work of a multitude of volunteers, the generosity of thousands of donors and the success of the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity alliance. The milestone 500th home is located in Pontiac, Mich., and is being built with Lakeisha White and her family who have contributed 300 hours of sweat equity. Upon its completion this fall, the White family will purchase the home with a no-profit mortgage provided by the Oakland County (Mich.) Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

For more information on this unique alliance and on the 500th home celebration, visit www.thriventbuilds.com.

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis is a nonprofit Christian housing ministry dedicated to building decent, affordable housing in partnership with those in need in Shelby and Fayette counties. Since 1983, Memphis Habitat has worked with 292 families to build homes. For more information, visit www.memphishabitat.com

About the Mid-South Region of Thrivent Financial

The Mid-South Region is made up of more than 50 financial representatives and more than 57,000 members in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Together with its members, Thrivent Financial’s Mid-South Region provided \$7.6 million in fraternal outreach contributions in 2005. For more information, visit www.lutheransonline.com.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 225,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1 million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org

About Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit membership organization helping nearly 3 million members achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities. As a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society, Thrivent Financial sponsors national outreach programs and activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. Thrivent Financial has main offices in Minneapolis, Minn., and Appleton, Wis. For more information, visit www.thrivent.com.

—END—

THRIVENT BUILDS ALLIANCE CONTACTS:

Cheryl Winget
Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity
612-877-5025 office
612-877-1958 cell
cheryl.winget@thrivent.com

Kelsey Peterson
Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity
612-844-5825 office
612-751-3483 cell
kelsey.peterson@thrivent.com