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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES CELEBRATE NEW CHAPTER IN LOCAL FAMILY'S LIFE

Habitat for Humanity® International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® join forces to increase capacity for building affordable housing.

Memphis, Tenn. – Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, fifteen local Lutheran churches and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis will be one step closer to welcoming the Fields family into their new home this Saturday.

Volunteers will remove weeds and brush from the lot, and they will construct a patio area behind the home. As a thank you to the neighborhood, which is located in the Northaven community, they will edge the sidewalks of the street. The volunteers will return for the home dedication ceremony at 3 pm on October 25.

The Fields family has been working side by side with these volunteers every Saturday since September 13.

“Everyone is always telling me they’re putting a blessing on the house,” Rasheedol Fields said. “They’ve been so helpful – I love them all.”

“Rasheedol has not been shy about meeting and interacting with the volunteers who have worked on the construction of her house,” said Paul Alwardt, a lead volunteer on the home. “She has taken an active role in performing many different tasks during the build. I pray that she will have many happy years in the house.”

Sponsors of the home include Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Christ Lutheran Church Arlington, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Faith-Collierville Lutheran Church, Grace Celebration Lutheran Church, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Living Word Lutheran Church, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Messiah Lutheran Church, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church.

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The construction of this particular home is the result of two organizations—Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® and Habitat for Humanity® International—joining forces in an unprecedented alliance to not only build walls, but to build communities as well. *Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity*, an alliance between these two non-profits, was announced in September, 2005, in Minneapolis, Minn., home to Thrivent Financial's corporate headquarters. While Thrivent Financial has long been a supporter of Habitat for Humanity, the alliance represents the largest single pledge in the history of either entity and has made possible construction of the Fields' home in this community.

"This three year program has been a wonderful experience for volunteers and families across the country," said Linda Hill, Lutheran Community Services Specialist for Thrivent. "We've been pleased to join together with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis for the last two years, and we hope the partnership will continue in the future."

The four-year, \$125-million commitment by Thrivent Financial includes plans to construct hundreds of homes across the country each year, to engage hundreds of thousands of volunteers in Habitat for Humanity builds, to promote short-term Habitat home-building trips abroad and to provide large grants to measurably improve substandard housing in specific neighborhoods.

For more information on this unique alliance, visit www.Thriventbuilds.com.

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Memphis Habitat has built 318 homes since its founding in 1983. Habitat houses are built with volunteer labor and sold to partner families, at no profit and with no interest charged. Partner families make a down payment and invest hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" into the construction of their homes and other Habitat homes. For more information, please visit www.memphishabitat.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 250,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1 million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org.

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.lutheranonline.com.

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.

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