

Press Release

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009

Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity Awarded Two Thrivent Builds Grants for 2010

*Four-year partnership extended to a fifth year,
Special Dedication Ceremony at Noon today, 821 & 823 11th Ave. S.*

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SAINT CLOUD, MN Thanks to an alliance between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity, two Central Minnesota families will be lifted out of the cycle of poverty by becoming home owners in 2010. Thrivent Lutheran Engagement Team Members Judy Dinger and Joy Peterson have announced a \$236,3999 award to Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity for projects in Paynesville and St. Cloud.

“The overall quality of applications we received was high, and the selection process was difficult. You can be proud of the work you’ve already done and the direction you are headed in making your project a success,” Dinger and Peterson said in a letter sent to the affiliate yesterday.

“We are very excited and grateful to continue our partnership with Thrivent into next year,” said Bruce Johnson, Executive Director of Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity. “This partnership has already helped 10 families in Central Minnesota find safe, decent and affordable housing.”

The award will be formally announced during the dedication of a 2009 Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity home on the corner of 11th Ave. SE and 9th St. S. in St. Cloud at Noon today (Nov. 11).

Thrivent officials will be attending to celebrate with the family, who will be purchasing the home through a low-cost, no-down payment, no interest loan on November 24. Another *Thrivent Builds* project will be dedicated in Big Lake on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at Noon.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity is an alliance that puts the faith of Lutherans and their communities into action to help families in need move into the economic mainstream and put an end to poverty housing. **Thrivent Builds** volunteers work in local communities to help build simple, decent, affordable homes. More than two-thirds of the funding for each home will be contributed by Thrivent Financial, its members and local chapters. The remaining funding will be raised through the ongoing efforts of local Lutheran congregations, other faith communities, business sponsors and individuals.

About Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity

Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity, an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, was started in 1989 with a goal of eliminating poverty housing in Central Minnesota in Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, and Wright Counties. Since then, the affiliate has partnered with the community and placed 62 families—about 2/3 of them children—in homes of their own. Currently, 10 partner families await the

opportunity to own their own home. Habitat homeowner families are selected based on need, their ability to pay back zero-interest mortgages, and their willingness to partner as each adult Habitat homeowner works 200 “sweat equity” hours on their homes. Habitat is open to people from all walks of life. For more information, please visit www.cmhfh.org or call 320-656-8890

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 300,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.5 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, MN, and Appleton, WI. For more information, visit www.thrivent.com.

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