



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cara Montufar
Faith Relations VISTA
(301) 990-0014 x 25

cara.montufar@habitat-mc.org

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Home Blessing Opens Doors for Local Family

Habitat begins rehabilitation on final NRP Home, thanks to Thrivent Builds program

SILVER SPRING, MD (March 16, 2010) – On Saturday, March 20th Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD, Inc. (HFH-MC) in partnership with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs will celebrate the beginning of the rehabilitation of the future home of a deserving family in Montgomery County. Hidar and Selam, along with their three sons—ages 4, 6, and 11—currently live in a cramped and mold infested two-bedroom apartment. Not only is space and health a concern for the family, but the couple spends more than 50% of their monthly income on rent.

Fortunately, Hidar and Selam's family was one of twelve selected by HFH-MC to become homeowners as part of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). This program, a partnership between HFH-MC and the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, allowed for the purchase and rehabilitation of 12 vacant, foreclosed homes in Montgomery County. Hidar and Selam's home is the last to be completed as part of NRP Phase I and the 55th completed home since the affiliate opened in 1982.

The rehabilitation of this particular home was made possible thanks to a program called Thrivent Builds, an alliance between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. This alliance has resulted in the completion of hundreds of decent, affordable homes across the country since 2005, three of which are located in Montgomery County. Thanks to 2.6 million members who own financial products with the organization, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is able to contribute to the improvement of communities all over the country. The Thrivent Builds alliance also engages volunteers—members of Thrivent Financial, members of area Lutheran churches and members of the community at large—to work alongside the partner families to build these homes.

This Saturday, the blessing ceremony will kick off the rehabilitation of the Thrivent Builds Home and begin with an invocation from a local Lutheran pastor, whose congregants are regular

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volunteers with HFH-MC. Thrivent representatives, will speak about the continued success of the local Thrivent chapter, and new homeowners Hidar and Selam will share their story. Hidar says his family is very excited for the opportunity to live in this Thrivent Builds home, "I don't have words for everything that [purchasing a home from HFH-MC] will do for my family."

The event is free and open to the media. For more details or directions, call 301-990-0014 x25.

Habitat for Humanity Home Blessing Ceremony

3503 Napier St. Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

Saturday, March 20, 2010

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

About Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Maryland

HFH-MC is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Since 1982, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County has been partnering with the community and low-income families living in substandard conditions, to build simple, decent, affordable housing. To date, HFH-MC has built or rehabilitated 50 homes for local families and has more homes in progress. HFH-MC supports the notion that good, stable housing matters for neighborhoods. Better quality of living leads to stronger citizens and families. Habitat for Humanity is about changing lives, one home at a time. Visit our website at www.habitat-mc.org

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 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 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 approximately 2.6 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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