

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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House Blessing Ceremony Marks a New Beginning for Silver Spring Family

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans helps Habitat make the dream of homeownership a reality

SILVER SPRING, MD. (June 30, 2009) – On Saturday, July 11, the Nega family will join Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. (HfH-MC) and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to celebrate the start of construction on their new Silver Spring home. The family recently learned they had been selected to renovate a home as part of Habitat’s newest building project – the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). The NRP is a joint effort between the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs and HfH-MC.

Through the program, Habitat will purchase and renovate vacant, foreclosed properties in designated areas of Montgomery County. Thrivent Builds has pledged more than \$30,000 to help offset the cost of renovations for the Nega’s three bedroom, one and a half bathroom home. “We celebrated all night,” said Mr. Nega after learning that his family had been selected to purchase a Habitat for Humanity home.

The Home Blessing Ceremony will take place at 9:00 a.m. at the site of the Nega family’s new home located off of Pittson Road in Silver Spring. Pastor John Hundt from Good Shepherd Lutheran of Gaithersburg will lead the group of volunteers in prayer and a house tour will follow. Representatives from HfH-MC and local Thrivent leaders will also be on-hand to answer questions about the project and the organization’s plan for future rehabilitation projects.

Renovations on the Nega family’s new home are a result of an alliance between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, this alliance has resulted in hundreds of decent, affordable homes across the country since 2005. 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.

“Our Thrivent chapter is so excited to partner with the local Habitat affiliate,” said Gabe Hare, Thrivent Builds Chapter Specialist. “Our members are committed to helping rehabilitate this home and be a part of providing a safe and warm home for the Nega family. We’d like to invite others to join us and experience the joy of helping another family realize the American Dream.”

The Nega family’s home is the second home sponsored through the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity Program. This initiative will provide 65 percent of the rehabilitation costs of the home and the Montgomery County Thrivent chapter and Lutheran congregations will raise an additional 10 percent while HfH-MC will fund the remaining 25 percent.

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The event is free and open to the media. For more details or directions, contact Shana Newman at 301-990-0014 x17.

Habitat for Humanity Home Blessing Ceremony
11818 Pittson Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906
Saturday, July 11
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

About Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County

HfH-MC is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International and has built or rehabilitated 43 homes since its inception in 1982. HfH-MC's homes are built or rehabilitated by a largely volunteer workforce and then sold to qualified families at no-profit and financed with affordable, no interest mortgages. The families' monthly mortgage payments are paid directly to HfH-MC and go into a revolving fund which helps to build even more Habitat homes. In addition to a down payment and monthly mortgage payments, homeowners invest on average 200-500 hours of their own labor - "sweat equity" - into building their homes.

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 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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