



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barbara Mason, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery Co., MD, Inc. 301-990-0014, x13  
Felecia Wilson, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery Co., MD, Inc., 301-208-8342  
Gabriel Hare, Montgomery County, MD Chapter of Thrivent Financial, 301-262-6362  
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## Local Housing Organization Partners with Local Thrivent Financial Chapter as a part of a \$24 million affordable housing effort across U.S.

*Habitat for Humanity's alliance with Thrivent Builds has Provided More than 1,000 Families an Opportunity to Achieve the American Dream of Homeownership*

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GAITHERSBURG, MD (December 19, 2008) – The partnership between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans continues to build hope for low-income families amidst economic difficulties as the mortgage crisis unfolds nationwide. In 2009, Thrivent Builds and Habitat for Humanity will contribute more than \$24 million to help build another 314 affordable homes in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Hundreds of local Habitat affiliates will build these homes alongside members of Thrivent Financial and other community volunteers.

“While our members are committed to helping build these homes, we are always looking for more volunteers. We hope others will consider joining us and experience the joy of helping another family realize the American Dream,” said Gabriel Hare, President of Montgomery County, Maryland Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Locally, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD (HfH-MC) has been awarded \$77,000, or 65 percent of the funds necessary, to rehabilitate a home in 2009 through the alliance with Thrivent Builds. The home will be built by area volunteers, which will be comprised of at least one-half Lutherans and one-fourth Thrivent Financial members. The Habitat partner family will also invest 200-500 hours of “sweat equity” helping to build their own homes. Construction will begin in the spring of 2009.

“Decent, affordable housing continues to be an unattainable dream for many families. But this support from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans means that we can make that dream come true for one more family. We’re so proud to be a part of the Thrivent Builds alliance.” said John Paukstis, HfH-MC Executive Director.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity supports Habitat home-building in the United States and abroad through its [Thrivent Builds Homes](#) and [Thrivent Builds Worldwide](#) programs. It also supports the [Thrivent Builds Mobile](#), a “multi-media exhibit on wheels” that will tour the United States in 2009 as it advocates for affordable housing and informs visitors about the Thrivent Builds alliance and how they can become involved.

To learn more, visit [www.thriventbuilds.com](http://www.thriventbuilds.com)

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### **About Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD**

HfH-MC is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International; its goal is to reduce substandard housing by providing a **hand up** rather than a **hand out** to help low-income families realize the dream of homeownership. Since 1982, HfH-MC has worked with 43 families to build affordable homes in Montgomery County, Maryland. For more information, visit [www.habitat-mc.org](http://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 300,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.5 million people. For more information, visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).

### **About Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit financial services membership organization helping nearly 3 million members thrive in life. Thrivent Financial and its subsidiaries offer a broad range of financial products and services including life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, disability income insurance, bank products and more. As a not-for-profit organization, Thrivent Financial brings its members together for social, educational and volunteer activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. For more information, visit [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com).

### **Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity International contacts:**

**Cheryl Winget**, 612-844-5025,      Cell: 612-877-1958  
**Kelsey Midthun**, 612-844-5825,      Cell: 612-751-3483

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