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**Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity again joining national home-building alliance that will partner with 355 American families in 2007**  
*One home was built in Nashville this year; \$86,000 will help build one more home in 2007 as part of this effort*

NASHVILLE, TENN. (Dec. 18, 2006) – A national home-building alliance between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International will again help Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity expand its home building capacity. Next year, another home will be built in Nashville because of Thrivent Financial’s generous contribution.

The additional home is part of the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity alliance that brings together thousands of volunteers and financial support from Thrivent Financial. Today, Habitat and Thrivent Financial are announcing **\$24.5 million has been committed to build 355 additional homes in 43 states with families in need in 2007.** Families like the Seanna Parker family.

“I’ve always wanted to be a homeowner. That’s my dream,” said Seanna Parker, of Nashville. “I want to have a place where I can be secure and my son, Jacob can always come home to.”

Twelve Nashville Lutheran congregations joined together as volunteers to build Seanna’s Habitat home in Providence Park.

“This is a wonderful opportunity.” said Chris McCarthy, CEO of Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity. “Once again we are able to unite with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and provide another house to a very deserving family. This will be in addition to the house we built with them last year, and bring us one Habitat home closer to completing in 2007 the entire neighborhood of Providence Park in southeast Nashville. Thrivent Financial’s continued support is helping us break the chain of poverty by providing affordable homes to those who would otherwise be unable to do so alone.”

Located off I-24 East at the Harding Place exit, Providence Park consists of 43 acres where 98 homes are already completed, with plans to build 42 more. The five acre park in

Providence Park is already in place and serving the entire community of pre-existing homes, and Habitat homes as well. Upon its completion in 2007, approximately 500 men, women and children of all ages, races, nationalities and faiths will reside there. Providence Park is a model for affordable housing and one of the largest contiguous Habitat neighborhoods in the country, illustrating the profound positive impact that homeownership has on individuals and families. Nashville Area Habitat has created a whole community of working people who understand and support each other every step of the way, taking great pride in their neighborhood and continuing to support it with a homeowner's association and direct community involvement. So far, Providence Park homeowners have contributed up to \$175,000 annually in property taxes and that amount will continue to grow until the entire project is complete in 2007. Providence Park is a true asset to Nashville from a financial, cultural, social, developmental and progressive standpoint

Thrivent Financial became Habitat for Humanity International's largest ally as a result of a four-year \$105-million commitment to help increase the non-profit housing ministry's home building production. In addition, Thrivent Financial rallied its national network of nearly 3 million members to volunteer. The alliance gives local Habitat affiliates the opportunity to work with more low-income families toward achieving Habitat's mission of eliminating substandard housing.

In 2006, the first year of the alliance, 313 families in 43 states achieved the dream of homeownership—a projected 6-percent increase in Habitat's U.S. home production. In its second year, the alliance is again increasing Habitat's home construction by working with 256 Habitat affiliates to build 355 homes.

“I am so proud of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans alliance with Habitat for Humanity,” said John Hall, Lutheran Community Services Specialist of the Mid South Region of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. “Thrivent Financial has always had a good relationship with our congregations and communities in aiding their efforts to do good for others. This alliance is an extension of that local effort which continues to guide us toward being good world citizens as well. Our volunteers are looking forward to working on this Thrivent Build with Nashville Area Habitat once again in the community.”

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity brings together two national nonprofit networks of 1,699 Habitat affiliates and 1,362 Thrivent volunteer chapters. Locally, the Mid South Region of Thrivent volunteer chapters will be helping with the homes. The need for an effort of this magnitude is great:

- More than 13 million U.S. households use at least half of their income to pay for housing.
- Millions more live in overcrowded conditions or housing with severe physical deficiencies, such as having no hot water, electricity or toilet.

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

**About the Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity**

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry that provides families with the life-changing opportunity to purchase decent, affordable homes. The agency has tripled in size in the last three years and has completed 277 Habitat homes in Nashville. Qualifying families for the Habitat program purchase their homes at cost (usually \$80,000-\$85,000) and repay the mortgage with no interest over a 20-30 year period. Additionally, families are required to accumulate up to 475 hours of “sweat equity,” earned through HomeWORKS classes, build site time, and community work or volunteering in some other aspect of Habitat operations, such as the Habitat HomeStores. The NAHFH HomeWORKS program includes hundreds of hours of classes per year for new homeowners on budgeting, credit management, mortgage finance, home maintenance, and more. The classes build each individual’s leadership, citizenship and life skills. To request an application or to receive more information about Habitat, call 615-254-HOME or visit [www.habitatnashville.org](http://www.habitatnashville.org).

**About the Mid South Region of Thrivent Financial**

The Mid South Region Financial Office is made up of more than 50 financial representatives and over 57,000 members in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Together with its members, Thrivent Financial’s Mid South Region provided more than \$5,000,000 million in charitable outreach in 2005. For more information, visit Thrivent Financial’s Mid South Region at [www.lutheransonline.com](http://www.lutheransonline.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 Americus, Ga., in 1976, Habitat has built more than 200,000 houses in nearly 100 countries, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1 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 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](http://www.thrivent.com).

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