

# Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NASHVILLE AREA HABITAT HELPED “THRIVENT BUILDS” PARTNERSHIP REACH 2000-HOME MILESTONE**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (January 20, 2010) – Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity is proud to be part of an international milestone celebrated in Minneapolis on Dec. 4, 2009, with the dedication of the 2000<sup>th</sup> home for “Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity,” a unique four-year alliance between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Thrivent Builds has resulted in 2000 homes for families in just four years. Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity built two homes as part of that effort – one in 2006 and one in 2007.

“The Thrivent Builds alliance gave two Nashville families the opportunity to achieve the American dream of homeownership,” said Nashville Area Habitat president and CEO Chris McCarthy. “We are so grateful for Thrivent’s support of our efforts to provide quality, affordable homes in partnership with families in need.”

While Thrivent Financial provided at least 65 percent of the funding for each of the 2,000 homes, local volunteers – many of them Thrivent members and members of area Lutheran congregations – assisted with construction and helped raise additional funds. Thrivent Builds was announced in September 2005 and helped increase the number of Habitat homes built in the United States by 6 percent annually from 2006 to 2009. Thrivent Financial is one of the largest non-government supporters of Habitat for Humanity.

At the December 4 event in Minnesota, Thrivent Financial announced its recent commitment of an additional \$15 million to Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity in 2010, continuing its support of Habitat’s mission for a fifth year and raising its cumulative support over five years to \$140 million. The 2010 commitment will make possible the construction of 181 homes in 37 states. For more information, visit [www.thriventbuilds.com](http://www.thriventbuilds.com).

**Thrivent Financial for Lutherans** is a not-for-profit, Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping approximately 2.6 million members achieve financial security and give back to their communities. Thrivent Financial and its affiliates 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 creates and supports national outreach programs and activities that help congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. For more information, visit [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com).

**Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity (NAHFH)** is an ecumenical Christian ministry that provides the life-changing opportunity for people to purchase and own quality, affordable homes. In its 26-year history, Nashville Area Habitat has built more than 600 homes, including 182 overseas. To date, the agency has served more than 1,450 family members, including more than 930 children.

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The agency consistently ranks in the top one percent of all Habitat affiliates and has earned honors including:

- The ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year award in 2008 and 2009 from EPA and HUD
- The 2009 HOPE Leadership Award for making a significant difference in minority homeownership
- The Habitat International Clarence Jordan Award for Creativity and Innovation, for strategies that resulted in record low mortgage delinquency rates

In 2010, Nashville Area Habitat will construct homes in three neighborhoods: Timberwood and Park Preserve in Nashville and Maple Valley in Dickson.

Prior to becoming homeowners, Habitat partner families must complete up to 470 hours of "sweat equity" at the build site and in the classroom before purchasing their homes. To request an application or to receive more information about NAHFH, call 615-254-HOME (4663) or visit [www.habitatnashville.org](http://www.habitatnashville.org). For information on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity go to [www.hud.gov/offices/fheo](http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo) or contact the local HUD office.

### **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).

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