



FOR RELEASE: Immediate

Gage Yager, Executive Director
817-926-9219
www.trinityhabitat.org

Media Contact: Lydia Traina
817-926-9219 ext. 125
817-733-6841 Cell

GROUND BREAKING IS GOOD NEWS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN FORT WORTH!

Habitat for Humanity® International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® join together to increase affordable housing in Fort Worth

FORT WORTH (April 15, 2009) - Times are tough and the construction of new homes has slowed considerably across the country. But here in Fort Worth the Kattie Dinkins family will mark an important milestone in the construction of their new home—and the community is invited to join in on the fun! The celebration begins at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, April 17, 2009 at the construction site at 3100 Evangeline Road, Fort Worth, TX 76140. Along with local Habitat for Humanity representatives and Thrivent Financial members, will help break ground on the Dinkins family home.

This new home is 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 thousands of decent, affordable homes across the country since 2005. Thanks to its 2.6 million members who own financial products with the organization, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is able to contribute to the improvement of communities like Fort Worth. 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.

The Dinkins family is more than a little eager to finish construction of their new home. They will complete 300 hours of “sweat equity” helping to build it, a basic tenet of Habitat for Humanity. They will also repay the no-profit mortgage over a period of 30 years, illustrating Habitat for Humanity’s objective to give families a “hand up” rather than a “hand out.”

“Being able to help provide a family with a home means so much to Thrivent members,” states Diann Higgins, Financial Associate. “Volunteering is important to them, and this gives them a great way to personally support our community by helping families achieve financial security.”

To learn more, visit www.thriventbuilds.com.

About Trinity Habitat for Humanity

Trinity Habitat for Humanity builds quality, affordable homes with volunteer labor and donations of money and materials. Sponsors and donors underwrite construction costs of Habitat for Humanity homes.

Partner families, as Habitat for Humanity homebuyers are known, invest 300 hours of sweat equity in the construction of their homes or others' houses, working side by side with volunteers. Partner families then buy their homes, making affordable monthly payments on a no-interest mortgage held by Habitat.

Their house payments revolve back into Habitat for Humanity's work, making homeownership possible for more families. Because Habitat for Humanity is a pay-it-forward housing program, a dollar invested in its work is a buck that never stops--it just keeps building.

Trinity Habitat for Humanity has built over 360 homes in Tarrant, Johnson, Parker and Wise counties since 1989 and celebrates its 20th year of building in North Texas in 2009. www.trinityhabitat.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.

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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