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## **North Texas Habitat for Humanity affiliates to build 4 homes in 2008 as part of national effort**

**Additional \$20 million committed to Thrivent Financial/Habitat for Humanity alliance—  
more than 650 homes completed so far, 322 additional homes funded in U.S. in 2008**

**North Texas** (Jan 9, 2008) – This year, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has given new meaning to “corporate generosity.”

Already one of Habitat for Humanity’s largest supporters through the \$105 million Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity alliance, Thrivent Financial has announced an increase in this four-year commitment to \$125 million. Of that amount, \$23.2 million will be used in 2008 to build 322 Habitat homes in 42 states. Additionally in 2008, the alliance will support more than 200 volunteer teams that will help build homes on the Gulf Coast and abroad.

“At the beginning of the alliance we committed \$105 million, but actually budgeted an additional \$20 million that we could add later if the alliance proved successful,” said Senior Vice President Brad Hewitt of Thrivent Financial. “Given our results to date, we’re ready to make that additional commitment.”

The increased commitment from Thrivent Financial responds to the interest and involvement of thousands of the nearly three million Thrivent Financial members, the successes of the alliance since it was formed in 2005, and the understanding that it has greater potential yet to be realized.

Locally, three Habitat affiliates--North Collin County, South Collin County and Trinity Habitat for Humanity--have been awarded \$208,436, or 65 percent of the funds necessary, to build four homes in 2008 through the alliance. These homes will be built by area volunteers, of whom at least one-half will be Lutheran and one-fourth will be Thrivent Financial members. The Habitat partner families will also invest “sweat equity” hours helping to build their homes.

Home construction will begin in April in South Collin County followed by fall builds for both North Collin County and Trinity Habitat affiliates.

Since the inception of the Thrivent Builds alliance, Dallas, South Collin County and Trinity Habitat affiliates have helped build 12 Thrivent Builds homes in North Texas. Of the more than 650 Thrivent Builds homes constructed across the nation, 34 of those have been built in the state of Texas. In 2008, the North Texas affiliates will join 241 other Habitat affiliates in 42 states to build the 322 homes.

“Thrivent has been a great new partner for affiliates across Texas over the past two years. Thrivent projects in North Central Texas are welcome additions to the ambitious construction schedules of three fine affiliates. Most importantly, however, is the fact that four more families will become homeowners in the region, strengthening local communities and improving the lot of each family,” commented Ann Chappell, president of Habitat Texas.

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Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity brings together two national nonprofit networks of more than 1,600 Habitat affiliates and 1,362 Thrivent volunteer chapters. The need for an effort of this magnitude is great:

- ▶ According to Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing in 2007, nearly half of low-income U.S. households—more than 13 million families—pay more than 50 percent of their income on housing.
- ▶ Millions more live in overcrowded conditions or housing with severe physical deficiencies, such as having no hot water, electricity or toilet.

"Thrivent Builds supports communities ... it strengthens families ... it and builds on the foundation of their financial security—a simple, affordable place to call home," said Marvin Allensworth, Managing Partner of the Texas Region of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. "Our members like working with such a caring organization like Habitat to meet needs in their communities."

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 U.S. in 2008 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).

#### **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 250,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1 million people. For more information, visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).

#### **About Habitat for Humanity of South Collin County**

Habitat for Humanity of South Collin County partners with families in need in Allen, Fairview, Lucas, Lowry Crossing, Murphy, Parker, Plano, Saint Paul, Trinity Park, Wylie, and their rural areas. Since 1997, Habitat for Humanity of South Collin County has worked with 33 families to build homes. For more information, visit [www.habitat-scc.org/index.htm](http://www.habitat-scc.org/index.htm).

#### **About North Collin County Habitat for Humanity**

North Collin County Habitat for Humanity partners with families in need in McKinney, Frisco, Celina, Melissa, Anna, Prosper, and Princeton. Since 1992, North Collin County has worked with 48 families to build homes. For more information, visit [www.ncc-habitat.com](http://www.ncc-habitat.com).

#### **About Trinity Habitat for Humanity**

Trinity Habitat builds homes and hope in partnership with families in Tarrant, Johnson, Parker and Wise counties and has completed more than 320 homes since 1989. For more information, visit [www.trinityhabitat.org](http://www.trinityhabitat.org).

#### **About the Texas Region of Thrivent Financial**

The Texas Region is made up of 140 financial representatives and more than 109,000 members in Texas. Together with its members, Thrivent Financial's Texas Region provided more than \$8,099,045 in charitable outreach in 2006. For more information, visit [www.lutheranonline.com/rfo475](http://www.lutheranonline.com/rfo475).