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Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh joins national home-building effort in 2010

Funding awarded for one home in Oshkosh area and 2,000th home celebrated in Minnesota

OSHKOSH, Wis. (Dec. 15, 2009) – Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh learned recently that it has been awarded \$58,000 to build one home in Oshkosh. This grant, providing 65 percent of the cost of construction, comes from Minneapolis-based Thrivent Financial for Lutherans because of that organization's unique partnership with Habitat for Humanity International, called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh is celebrating their award in conjunction with an international milestone that was observed Dec. 4, 2009, in Minneapolis, Minn., when the 2,000th Thrivent Builds home (worldwide) was dedicated. Construction also began on the 2,001st home, kicking off the start of the 2010 partnership between the two entities.

The four-year Thrivent Builds alliance was announced in September, 2005 and has helped construct approximately six percent of Habitat homes built in the United States from 2006 through 2009. Ongoing in 2010, the Thrivent Builds partnership continues to ensure Thrivent Financial as one of the largest non-government supporters of Habitat for Humanity International.

At the December 4th event in Minnesota, Thrivent Financial announced its 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, including the home built by Habitat Oshkosh in Oshkosh, WI.

"The Thrivent Builds alliance is helping Habitat Oshkosh increase the number of families served in our community," said Steve Hoopman, Executive Director. "We are so grateful for Thrivent's support of our efforts to provide decent, affordable homes in partnership with families in need."

About Habitat for Humanity Oshkosh

Habitat Oshkosh built its first home in Oshkosh in 1990. Habitat just finished their 19th home in time for the family to move in before Christmas. In 2010 Habitat Oshkosh will celebrate their 20th anniversary with increase in house constructions, to surpass past years, totaling three new houses and one rehab. For more information, visit www.habitatoshkosh.org.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity is a four-year \$125 million alliance between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International. The alliance makes Thrivent Financial one of Habitat's largest allies and aims to increase Habitat's annual house production by hundreds of homes per year. To date, 2,000 homes have been built in the U.S. and more than 30 other countries. For more information, visit 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.

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.