

Contacts:

Erica Wolff, Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh, (920) 235-3535

Wall Raising Ceremony is Good News for Affordable Housing in Oshkosh!

Habitat for Humanity® International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® join together to increase affordable housing in Oshkosh. Community is invited to a Wall Raising Ceremony to celebrate.

OSHKOSH, WI (March, 2010) – Times are tough and the construction of new homes has slowed considerably across the country. But here in Oshkosh the Henderson 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 12 p.m. on March 31st at the construction site at 639 West 9th Ave. Representatives of Thrivent Financial and Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh will be at the event to help kick off the first build of the year.

This new home is a result of a partnership between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity. This partnership has resulted in more than 2,000 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 Oshkosh. Thrivent Financial contributed 65 percent of the house costs—a total of \$58,000—and is also engaging local volunteers who are members of Thrivent Financial, members of area Lutheran churches and members of the community at large, to donate additional funds and volunteer their time to work alongside the partner families to build these homes.

The Henderson family is more than a little eager to finish construction of their new home. They will complete 250 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 time illustrating Habitat for Humanity’s objective to give families a “hand up” rather than a “hand out.”

To learn more, visit www.habitatoshkosh.org.

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.

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.