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For Immediate Release

Dedication is Good News for Affordable Housing in Kansas City

Habitat for Humanity® International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® join together to increase affordable housing in Kansas City. Community is invited to a Dedication to celebrate.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (June 17, 2009) – Times are tough and the construction of new homes has slowed considerably across the country. But here in Kansas City the Riak 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 10:00 a.m. on June 20, 2009 at the construction site at 1601 East 33rd Street. Along with local Habitat for Humanity representatives and Thrivent Financial members, the family will speak during a short program.

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 Ivanhoe. 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.

“Ater and his family have come a long way since the day they found out they were accepted into the program,” explains Yahna Gibson, director of Habitat for Humanity Kansas City. “Ater immigrated to the United States to escape the violence of his home country of Sudan. He has built a life here, for himself and his family. To go from living in constant fear in the midst of one of the bloodiest civil wars on record to, now, receiving the keys to a brand new home is a testament to the determination and resilience of the type of people our program attracts.”

The Riak family is more than a little eager to finish construction of their new home. They will complete 350 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,” added Stan Stanfield, Lutheran community services specialist. “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.

More information about Habitat for Humanity Kansas City:

Habitat for Humanity Kansas City is the seventh affiliate of Habitat International and one of three affiliates operating in the metro area. Habitat Kansas City was founded in 1979 by John and Mary Pritchard as a Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing within the urban core of Kansas City, Missouri. Through volunteer labor and both monetary and material donations, Habitat KC builds and rehabilitates basic, decent houses with the help of partner families in need. The houses are then sold to these partner families at no profit with a no interest mortgage. Habitat Kansas City has built more than 200 homes and rehabilitated many more, providing quality housing for hundreds of families in our community. www.habitatkc.org

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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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