

## GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATES BEGINNING OF NEW CHAPTER IN LOCAL FAMILY'S LIFE

*Habitat for Humanity® International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® join forces to increase capacity for building affordable housing. Community is invited to a Groundbreaking to mark the beginning of a bright new chapter in life of local family.*

Mason City, IA (4/11/08) – Building on their dream of homeownership the Elbert family will celebrate 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 5:00pm on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at the construction site on the 1700 block of South Harding. Local Habitat for Humanity representatives and Thrivent Financial members will speak during a short program.

The construction of this particular home is the result of two organizations—Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® and Habitat for Humanity® International—joining forces in an unprecedented alliance to not only build walls, but to build community as well. *Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity*, an alliance between these two non-profits, was announced in September, 2005, in Minneapolis, Minn., home to Thrivent Financial's corporate headquarters.

“We are very excited to begin construction on this home, which will also begin a new life for Rebecca Elbert and her family,” said Melissa Schoneberg, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa. “Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has been a great partner with Habitat for Humanity and we feel fortunate to work with them again on another worthwhile project.”

The four-year, \$125-million commitment by Thrivent Financial includes plans to construct hundreds of homes across the country each year, to engage hundreds of thousands of volunteers in Habitat for Humanity builds, to promote short-term Habitat home-building trips abroad and to provide large grants to measurably improve substandard housing in specific neighborhoods.

Please call the Habitat office at (641) 424-8978 or Thrivent at (641) 420-7952 for more information, to donate towards a home, or to become involved as a volunteer.

***About Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa***

Habitat for Humanity is a not-for-profit ecumenical, Christian housing ministry that utilizes volunteer labor and donations to build simple, decent, affordable houses for families who would otherwise be unable to afford home ownership. The homes are sold to qualified families with 1% down and 0% interest loans. **1411 South Taft Ave., Mason City, Iowa 50401, 641-424-8978, [www.habitatnci.org](http://www.habitatnci.org) Now serving: Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, Winnebago, Worth and Wright counties.**

***About Thrivent Financial for Lutherans***

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit membership organization helping nearly 3 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, Min., and Appleton, Wis. For more information, visit [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com).

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