

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE – NOW LET’S CELEBRATE! Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa and the Cerro Gordo County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to hold dedication of home that culminates months of working together to build a home in partnership with a low-income family.

MASON CITY, IA (Dec. 13, 2007) – Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa (HFHNCI) and the Cerro Gordo County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has accomplished what they set out to do— build their second home with a family in urgent need of one. On **Sunday, December 16 at 4 p.m.** volunteers, Habitat for Humanity representatives, Thrivent Financial representatives, and the excited partner family will gather at 2116 South Grover in Mason City to celebrate the hard work, the generous financial backing and the community support that made this home possible. An **Open House begins at 4 p.m. and is followed by a brief Dedication Program at 5 p.m.**

The Collins family is eager to move into their new home. They have completed 250 hours of “sweat equity” helping to build their home as well as others, a basic tenet of Habitat for Humanity. They will repay the no-profit, zero percent interest mortgage, illustrating Habitat for Humanity’s objective to give families a “hand up” rather than a “hand out.” The payments will be used to support the construction of Habitat homes for other families in need.

“It’s been a blessing for all of us to partner with the Collins family and help them achieve their dream of home ownership,” says Melissa Schoneberg, Executive Director for HFHNCI. “I am grateful for the partnership with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans that made this home possible.”

The new home on South Grover is a result of the recent alliance between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Called **Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity**, the alliance is a four-year, \$125 million commitment by Thrivent Financial 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 volunteer home building trips abroad and to provide large grants to measurably improve substandard housing in specific neighborhoods.

“Working with our local Habitat through Thrivent Builds program is a terrific way for our members to express their faith and give back to the community,” says Louis Althof, financial consultant with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. “It’s an honor to be able to share our blessings and know that the family will enjoy this Christmas and many holiday seasons to come in their new home.”

Thrivent Financial provided \$50,760, or 65 percent of the funding through Thrivent Builds. Under the leadership of Thrivent Builds Chapter Specialist Steve Meyer, the Cerro Gordo Chapter of Thrivent

Financial worked with HFHCI, area businesses and Lutheran congregations to raise an additional \$7,586 in cash, building materials, and services. The chapter also recruited the most of the volunteers who built the home. This is the second Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity home in Mason City. The first was completed in 2006 and the third is planned for construction beginning next spring. For more information on this unique alliance, visit www.thriventbuilds.com.

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.

Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa 1411 Taft Ave. S., Mason City, Iowa 50401, 641-424-8978; Serving Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, Winnebago and Worth counties.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating to Habitat, please call the office at (641)424-8978.

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, Minn., and Appleton, Wis. For more information, visit www.thrivent.com.