

Consortium of Des Moines Non-Profits Announces Neighborhood Planning Grant
- Des Moines is one of only four cities nationwide chosen for project -

DES MOINES, Iowa (March 5th, 2007) - A coalition of eleven local non-profit groups and the City of Des Moines have been awarded a planning grant to impact the quality of life within several of Des Moines' north side neighborhoods. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, through its Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods (TBN) program, has designated the partnership to receive funding in the initial round of the program. Des Moines is one of only four cities chosen by Thrivent Financial to participate in the program.

The coalition partners will unite to sign a joint memorandum of understanding and further describe the project to the media during a press conference on March 8th at 1:30 p.m. at the Grubb YMCA, located at 1611 11th Street in Des Moines.

Introducing the coalition will be Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie with opening remarks from City Councilman Tom Vlassis, and Carol Olson, manager of Lutheran Community Services for Thrivent locally.

Representatives from the coalition partners will be available to answer questions.

Invited to join the coalition representatives for the announcement are:

Representative Ako Abdul-Samad
Representative Wayne Ford
Senator Jack Hatch

The award of \$53,200 is intended to finance the development of a neighborhood action plan to be created by the end of October 2007. The action plan would then be eligible for up to \$500,000 in grant dollars and \$500,000 in low-interest investment funds from Thrivent Financial.

Mondamin Presidential and King Irving on the city's near north side are the designated recipient neighborhoods.

The coalition will employ a holistic community development philosophy that targets a comprehensive approach to neighborhood revitalization through broad quality-of-life improvements.

TBN is one component of the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity initiative. Another component, Thrivent Builds Homes, sponsored the construction of three Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity homes in the designated neighborhoods in 2006, with four more sponsored homes scheduled for construction in 2007. Those seven homes represent nearly \$1 million in value enhancement for the near north side neighborhoods.

About the Des Moines Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods Coalition:

The Coalition is an ad hoc consortium of the City of Des Moines, two neighborhood associations and multiple nonprofit organizations who have been active in the neighborhoods. Initial coalition members include:

- King Irving Neighborhood Association
- Mondamin Presidential Neighborhood Association
- Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity
- City of Des Moines
 - Community Development Department
 - Neighborhood Based Service Delivery Program
 - Parks and Recreation Department
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
- King Academy of Math and Sciences
- House of Mercy
- Rebuilding Together
- Community Housing Development Corporation
- HOME, Inc.
- Neighborhood Finance Corporation
- Grubb YMCA

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.

In Iowa alone, Thrivent Financial provided more than \$12.2 million in fraternal assistance to our members and their congregations and communities. Our members were responsible for more than 1 million volunteer hours in 2005.