

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity: How young children can get involved

(Note: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity® International have formed an unprecedented alliance to help people in need of simple, decent, affordable housing. Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity is a four-year, \$105 million commitment by Thrivent Financial to mobilize thousands of volunteers, and to fund home construction in the United States and around the world to help reduce poverty housing and homelessness.)

Children understand the importance of having a safe place to call home. While children are not allowed on a Thrivent Builds site because of safety concerns, there are still a number of ways children can get involved and make a very important difference. Here are a few ideas to help get you started:

- **Prayer** – Even young children can offer words of prayer and support for those who are building homes with families in need.
- **Fund-raisers** – Encourage children to participate with their families and/or Sunday school class in fund-raisers to help families raise the resources they need to build a home. Ideas include holding a “Raise the Roof” walk for donations, creating cards or designing T-shirts to be sold at Thrivent Builds events, car or pet washes, and bake sales. Ask the children for other ideas—you may be surprised at what they dream up!
- **Cheerleaders** – Children’s enthusiasm is contagious. Children can help motivate adults to lend a hand and make a difference. They can make cards and posters, and share their concern for these families with the adults in their lives.
- **Learn** – You can help children learn about the issue of substandard housing. Visit www.thriventbuilds.com for more information. Be sure to look under “Thrivent Builds Mobile” to see if this interactive mobile exhibit will be visiting an area near you.

Age-appropriate Thrivent Builds activities for families with young children

- Make a welcome basket for the homeowner family and present it at the dedication.
- Stock the pantry for a new Thrivent Builds partner family.
- Build a model house out of blocks or other materials, and then relate it to a real home.
- Construct house banks as a fund-raising tool.
- Have children perform a song or skit during a home dedication ceremony.
- Have children sign a wall stud that is used to build a wall.
- Decorate nail aprons for volunteers.
- Build a mailbox for the partner family.
- Design posters and have a poster contest about poverty housing.
- Have children paint clay flower pots and plant them with flowers for a homeowner’s porch.

