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Habitat, Thrivent host dedication of house

Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity and the Calhoun County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans have accomplished what they set out to do eight months ago - build a home with a family in need. On October 14, at 3 p.m., volunteers, representatives and area friends will join the excited partner family at 446 Jackson Street to celebrate the hard work, generous financial backing, and the community support that made this home possible.

Homebuyer Estella Sutton and her children are anxious to move into their new home. They are completing the required 500 hours of "sweat equity" helping to build the home, a basic tenet of Habitat for Humanity. The family will repay the no-profit mortgage over a period of 20 years, illus-

trating Habitat for Humanity's objective to give families a "hand up" rather than a "hand out."

"My family is patiently waiting for the move-in date and really can't believe this - it is a dream-come-true!" said homeowner Sutton.

"It has been a pleasure to work beside all the wonderful members of Lutheran Churches and Thrivent for Lutherans' volunteers," said Art Pearce, executive director.

The new home, located at 446 Jackson Street, Battle Creek, 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, \$105 million commitment by Thrivent Financial that includes plans:

- to construct up to an additional 500 homes across the country each year;
- to engage 500,000 volun-

teers in Habitat for Humanity builds;

- to promote short-term volunteer home-building trips abroad;

- to provide large grants to measurably improve substandard housing in specific neighborhoods; and

- to supplement gifts from Thrivent Financial's nearly three million members to Habitat for Humanity International.

"Our partnership with Habitat for Humanity raises the 'level of effectiveness,' not only in Michigan, but also all over the United States," said Kim Crane, LCSS--TB Michigan Region.

"It's projects like 'Thrivent Builds Homes' in Battle Creek that makes our decision to support Habitat for Humanity International even better, as we decide who to support in the future," said Mike Redford, MLCS for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

For more information on this unique alliance, visit www.Thriventbuilds.com.