

Bacon's

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Habitat partners with Thrivent

Habitat for Humanity[®] International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans[®] join forces to increase capacity for building affordable housing. The community is invited to a groundbreaking event to mark the beginning of a bright new chapter in life of local family.

Building on their dream of homeownership the Rabanus 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 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 19, at the future construction site in Spring Valley which is located at the intersection of Lois Street and Maryann Street (Lois is off Hwy 29 - approximately one block to site).

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, home to Thrivent Financial's corporate headquarters. While Thrivent Financial has long been a supporter of Habitat for Humanity, the alliance represents the largest single pledge in the history of either entity and has made possible construction of the Rabanus home in this community.

The four-year, \$105-million commitment by Thrivent Financial includes plans to con-

struct up to 500 additional homes across the country each year, to engage 500,000 volunteers in Habitat for Humanity builds, to promote short-term Habitat home-building trips abroad, to provide large grants to measurably improve sub-standard housing in specific neighborhoods, and to supplement gifts from Thrivent Financial's nearly three million members to Habitat for Humanity International.

Amy Muzzy, St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity's executive director, said "The grant we received from Thrivent Financial will cover 70 percent of the construction costs of two homes that we will be building in Spring Valley. St. Croix Valley Habitat is responsible for raising 20 percent of the costs and local Lutheran congregations will be funding the remaining 10 percent. This is a wonderful partnership and a great opportunity to improve the lives of two families by providing simple, affordable homes. It is truly a community effort that makes this possible."

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

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International and is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Up to date 22 homes have been constructed for families in need of simple decent affordable housing. Six additional homes are expected to be completed during 2006.

St. Croix Valley Habitat is a non-profit organization that builds homes in Pierce and St. Croix counties located in West

Central Wisconsin. For more information, visit www.scvhhabitat.org.

Habitat for Humanity International, based in Americus, Ga., is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since 1976, Habitat has built more than 200,000 houses in nearly 100 countries, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1 million people.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, with main offices in Minneapolis and Appleton, is a not-for-profit Fortune 500 financial services organization helping nearly 3 million members achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities. Founded to help Lutherans care for and support one another in time of need, Thrivent Financial is a faith-based membership organization guided by Christian principles, and is called to improve the quality of life of its members, their families and their communities by providing solutions that focus on financial security, wellness and caring for others. Thrivent Financial is organized into 1,362 local volunteer groups, called chapters. Chapters meet regularly to carry out a variety of volunteer efforts, fundraising projects and educational programs to help their communities and people in need. Thrivent Financial and its members provide approximately \$200 million annually for programs and activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations and needy individuals.