



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **July Groundbreaking Celebrates a New Chapter for Single Mom**

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla.; July 10, 2013 – Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka received \$72,000 in funding to help build a home in Sanford as part of Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity in 2013. Before the buzzing of saws and pounding of hammers begins, words of thanksgiving and celebration will be shared at the groundbreaking on July 20 at 8:30am. The property is located at 1505 Douglas Avenue in Sanford and will become home to single mom Michele Taylor and her daughter. Michele has worked for Seminole County Public Schools as a bus driver for the past 5 years and enjoys her job and the interaction with the school children. She is also pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Nursing and hopes to obtain her degree within the next two years.

Nationally, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans announced it will commit \$6.8 million in 2013 to help build 113 Habitat for Humanity houses across the United States. Through this unique partnership, called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, Thrivent Financial and its members have now committed more than \$180 million and more than 3.5 million volunteer hours since 2005. Thrivent Financial remains the largest non-governmental support of Habitat for Humanity International.

“This partnership reflects our commitment, as a membership organization, to building stronger communities,” says Brad Hewitt, president and CEO of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. “This support helps to make a difference not only in the lives of people who need safe, affordable housing, but also in the lives of our member volunteers who have been inspired to help people in need.”

The partnership consists of three programs with Habitat for Humanity: Thrivent Builds Homes, Thrivent Builds Worldwide and Thrivent Builds Repairs. These programs allow Thrivent Financial to partner with Habitat and low-income families in the construction, repair and rehabilitation of affordable housing in communities both in the United States and abroad. More than 2,900 homes have been built in the United States and around the world with the Thrivent Builds program.

“The Thrivent Builds partnership is helping Habitat for Humanity of Seminole-Apopka increase the number of families we serve in our community,” said Penny Seater, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka. “We are excited to partner with an organization that is not only highly committed to our mission, but does an outstanding job of bringing people together to make a difference in the community.”

While Thrivent Financial provides at least 55 percent of the funding for each Thrivent Builds home, local volunteers – many of them Thrivent Financial members and members of local Lutheran congregations – assist with construction and help raise additional funds.

### **About Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka**

Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka builds, renovates or preserves homes by partnering with others to accelerate and broaden access to affordable housing as a foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty. To date, Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka has built and renovated more than 130 local homes and its construction capacity has more than doubled over the last year. Incorporated in 1991, the offices are located in Sanford, Fla. To learn more about Habitat Seminole & Apopka or to make a donation, call (407) 696-5855 or visit <http://habitatseminoleapopka.org>.

**Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity** is a multi-year, multi-million dollar partnership between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International. Thrivent Builds is designed to involve Thrivent members and Lutherans in helping provide a ‘hand up’ to people who lack decent shelter, offering them a path to greater economic independence. Excluding government funding, Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity is Habitat’s largest single source of funding, constructing more than 2900 homes in the U.S. and around the world since 2005. For more information, visit [ThriventBuilds.com](http://ThriventBuilds.com).

### **About Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit, Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping approximately 2.6 million members achieve financial security and give back to their communities. Thrivent Financial and its affiliates offer a broad range of financial products and services including life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, disability income insurance, bank products and more. As a not-for-profit organization, Thrivent Financial creates and supports national outreach programs and activities that help congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. For more information, visit [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com).

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 600,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 3 million people. For more information, visit [Habitat.org](http://Habitat.org).

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