



## Habitat for Humanity of Orange County

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Wall Raising is Good News for Affordable Housing in Westminster!** *Habitat for Humanity of Orange County and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® join together to increase affordable housing in Westminster*

Westminster, Calif. (July 22, 2009) – Times are tough and the construction of new homes has slowed considerably across the country. But here in Westminster, the Diaz family will mark an important milestone in the construction of their new home. Construction begins at 7:30 a.m. on July 25<sup>th</sup> at the construction site at 13931 Cedar Street. Along with local Habitat for Humanity of Orange County representatives and volunteers, and Thrivent Financial members, Supervisor Janet Nguyen will be on hand to welcome the family to the site of their future home.

This new home is a result of an alliance between Habitat for Humanity of Orange County and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, this alliance has resulted in thousands of decent, affordable homes across the country since 2005. Thanks to its 2.6 million members who own financial products with the organization, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is able to contribute to the improvement of communities like Westminster. The Thrivent Builds alliance also engages volunteers—members of Thrivent Financial, members of area Lutheran churches and members of the community at large—to work alongside the partner families to build these homes.

“This wall-raising celebration is a new beginning for a family in Westminster” said Sharon Ellis, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. “This decent, affordable home will not only give the Diaz family a strong foundation, it will strengthen the community, as well.”

The Diaz family is more than a little eager to finish construction of their new home. They will complete 250 hours of “sweat equity” helping to build it, a basic tenet of the Habitat for Humanity program. Once the house is completed, they will also pay a long-term mortgage illustrating Habitat for Humanity of Orange County’s objective to give families a “hand up” rather than a “hand out.”

“Being able to help provide a family with a home means so much to Thrivent members,” added Rachael M. Howe, Manager of Lutheran Engagement, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. “Volunteering is important to them, and this gives them a great way to personally support our community by helping families achieve financial security.”

To learn more, visit [www.thriventbuilds.com](http://www.thriventbuilds.com) or please contact Gladys Hernandez at 714-434-6200 ext. 229.

#### **About Habitat for Humanity of Orange County**

*Celebrating 21 years of changing lives and changing communities in Orange County.*

#### **134 homes built in Orange County**

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, headquartered in Santa Ana, CA, is dedicated to ending substandard housing and building strong communities in Orange County. Habitat uses non-government donations of funding, materials, professional services and volunteer labor to build simple, decent homes which are sold to qualified low-income families for a 1% down payment, closing costs, and a zero-interest mortgage. Mortgage payments are recycled to build more Habitat homes. Habitat families contribute 500 hours of “sweat equity” to the program by building their own home, helping another Habitat family build a home, or working in some other area of the Habitat organization. Habitat for Humanity families and volunteers have built 134 homes in Orange County since 1988, and are currently building five homes in San Juan Capistrano, three homes in Yorba Linda and two homes in Fullerton.

#### **300,000 houses built worldwide**

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, 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 International has built more than 300,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1 million people. Habitat for Humanity International is currently the 10th largest homebuilder in the United States, according to Builder OnLine magazine.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, please call (714) 434-6200 extension 229 or visit our Web site at <http://habitatoc.org>.

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

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit membership organization helping approximately 2.6 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](http://www.thrivent.com).

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