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## Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity to Welcome Award-Winning Contemporary Christian Artist Mark Schultz to Elgin's Hemmens Cultural Center

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DOWNERS GROVE, Ill. – The Chicagoland Regional Office of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, will welcome Platinum-selling contemporary Christian singer-songwriter Mark Schultz to The Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin, Ill., on Saturday, Aug. 20, for a compelling night of music, ministry and more. All proceeds from the concert will go to Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, a home-building partnership that in 2011 will contribute \$10.4 million to help Habitat for Humanity construct 164 homes across the United States – including six homes in Chicagoland.

Schultz has landed at No. 1 on *Billboard's* "Hot Christian Adult Contemporary Songwriters" list and has appeared on national TV programs including "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and "48 Hours." In 2004, the U.S. Army selected Schultz's song "Letters From War" as the centerpiece of its "Be Safe—Make It Home" campaign to reduce accidental deaths among soldiers. A native of Colby, Kansas, Schultz previously worked as a youth pastor in Nashville, Tenn. His song "Back in His Arms Again" was named BMI's Christian Song of the Year in 2003. Schultz's 2005 release "Mark Schultz Live... A Night of Stories and Songs" sold more than 1 million copies, earning the album RIAA Platinum status.

"We are so thrilled to welcome Mark Schultz to the area" said Inga Theeke, Manager of Member Engagement and Community Partnerships for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in Chicagoland. "It will be a great evening for fellowship in support of Thrivent's six-year partnership with our local Habitat for Humanity affiliates."

The concert begins at 7 p.m. August 20 at The Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120. Tickets are \$15-\$25 and are available at [www.itickets.com/events/267310.html](http://www.itickets.com/events/267310.html).

**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 nearly 2,500 homes in the U.S. and around the world since 2005. For more information, visit [ThriventBuilds.com](http://ThriventBuilds.com).

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**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 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people. For more information, or to donate or volunteer, visit [Habitat.org](https://www.habitat.org).