



Building Houses—Building Hope

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For immediate release

HARD WORK PAYS OFF – PARTNERS CELEBRATE NEW HABITAT HOMEOWNER AND NEW GREEN COMMUNITY

Wheaton, IL — On December 13, Storm Kimbrough and her children received the keys to their new DuPage Habitat for Humanity home in West Chicago. This event would be a celebration for any family, but it is a huge milestone for a family that used to live on the streets.

Said soon-to-be-homeowner Kimbrough, "Working with DuPage Habitat for Humanity has been the most rewarding experience of my life. I am elated to be a homeowner and to have accomplished such a substantial goal."

"Storm is a parent who wants to offer a better life for her children. She has overcome unique challenges, but she is like many DuPage families who are hard-working and living on a budget. These families just need a 'hand up, not a hand out' to become homeowners, and Habitat for Humanity provides that boost," said Sarah Brachle, executive director of DuPage Habitat.

In June 2009, DuPage Habitat broke ground on Pioneer Prairie, a three-acre residential subdivision of 11 new energy-efficient detached, single-family homes in West Chicago. The homes balance Habitat's commitment to cost-conscious development and environmentally-conscious design and incorporate the technical advice from ComEd, College of DuPage's Sustainable Design Initiative and a team of green experts.

Working with College of DuPage architecture students, ComEd provided energy efficiency expertise to develop cost-effective green building strategies. The students compiled a cost-benefit analysis of green recommendations for construction, recycling, landscaping and more for use in DuPage Habitat's first green community.

"This home has truly been built by our community. This was a team effort to build simple, solid, sustainable, energy-efficient homes -- from the financial support of the sponsors, to the talent of the trades community, to the sweat of the volunteers, to the collaboration with government," said Brachle.

DuPage Habitat for Humanity builds and sells homes to qualified hard-working, limited-income families. Families must earn sufficient income to pay their 30-year mortgages to DuPage Habitat. In addition, homeowners complete 250 "sweat equity" hours by building their own home and their neighbors' homes and participating in finance, budgeting and home repair classes. All Habitat homeowners pay local property taxes and utilities.

The next homeowner application sessions will be held on January 26, 2010 at 6:15 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 515 S. Wheaton Avenue, in Wheaton or on January 31, 2010 at 2:15



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p.m at Faith Lutheran Church at 41 N. Park Blvd in Glen Ellyn. Attendance at either session, both offered in English and Spanish, is a requirement for application to the program.

DuPage Habitat for Humanity has raised over \$4 million in philanthropic, government, and community support for the 11 Pioneer Prairie homes and additional seven scattered-site rehabbed homes. The donors are not only funding the development of 11 new energy-efficient homes, they are creating a 30-year annuity that continues to help fund affordable home construction in DuPage County for years to come.

The lead sponsor on the Kimbrough home is Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a faith-based, not-for-profit membership organization. Other Leadership donors include: Matrex Exhibits, Ambitech Engineering, American Bankers Association, Tyndale House Publishers, Goldman Sachs, Air-Rite Heating and Cooling, ComEd, Mark and Denise Fessler, Nicor, Painters and Allied Trades Union (District 30), Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Showalter Roofing and Soukup Plumbing. The project has also received funding from the DuPage County Department of Community Commission's CDBG and HOME programs.

For further information on, please visit www.dupagehabitat.org or call 630.510.3737.

About DuPage Habitat for Humanity

DuPage Habitat for Humanity is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. DuPage Habitat serves DuPage County, Illinois and works in partnership with people in need to build modest and affordable housing by building and renovating houses using donated materials and volunteer labor. These houses are then sold to limited income families needing decent shelter. Those who qualify must demonstrate their commitment to home ownership by investing 250 hours of sweat equity and repaying the cost of their house through a no-interest long-term loan. This "giving a hand up—not a hand out" approach gives families pride in their accomplishment of homeownership.

About Thrivent Financial

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity is a four-year \$125 million alliance between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International. The alliance makes Thrivent Financial one of Habitat's largest allies and aims to increase Habitat's annual house production by hundreds of homes per year. To date, 2,000 homes have been built in the U.S. and more than 30 other countries. For more information, visit www.thriventbuilds.com.

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 www.thrivent.com.

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