



Habitat for Humanity® Kansas City Nuts & Bolts



March 2009

Dear Habitat KC Supporter,

Events abound in the coming months. There is the [Thrivent Builds Wall Raising](#) (tomorrow), an [Easter Egg Hunt](#), the [Parade of Playhouses](#) event, the [NARI Remodeled Homes Tour](#) (ticket proceeds benefit our food pantry), and the [ReStore Earth Day Sale](#), just to name a few. Please check out these and all our events on our [online event calendar](#).

In this issue, you'll find out where we are in construction; learn a little more about one of our strongest national supporters, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans; and all about how your group or company can support our grass roots information campaign by utilizing our Speaker's Bureau.

Build louder in 2009. Together we can build hope that will last a lifetime!

Peace and blessings,

- Yahna Gibson, Executive Director

Please note that Habitat for Humanity Kansas City will be closed April 10, 2009 in observance of the Easter Holiday.

Habitat KC Construction Update

We are starting the build season off with the House that Abraham Builds and the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans build, located at [3528 Flora and 1601 East 33rd](#), respectively. Both foundations are in, the rough plumbing has been done, and we are preparing for the flatwork. We will be putting the floors down in the next couple of weeks. Walls for these

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first houses will be built in the Habitat KC warehouse and delivered to the job-site. This is where our volunteers come in.

We are in need of some regular, weekday volunteers who will commit to volunteering on our building sites or at the warehouse at least one day a month. We are practically overrun with Saturday volunteers, yet our Wednesday through Friday opportunities are largely unfilled. If you are interested in more information about weekday volunteering for both groups and individuals, contact the Director of Volunteer Services, [Dana Byron](#).

We have ordered the surveys of the lots for the Christ Community and the Women Build houses. Our goal is to dig the foundations in the next few weeks in order to have everything in place for volunteers to start work on these projects in June. Having our basements in several weeks before the actual start time of a build gives us the opportunity to have materials pre-ordered, the rough mechanicals done and still have a little extra time, in case inclement weather slows us down.

All of our houses this year will have vinyl siding, donated by [PlyGem Corporation](#). This makes the houses' exteriors almost maintenance free, a big plus for our families. [BlueLinX Corporation](#) has given us some special pricing this year on our I-joists, as well as [Heartland Truss](#), for our roof trusses. By ordering materials in advance of the building phase, we are not only saving money with bulk discounts; we are also going to be better prepared at our build sites. Materials and tools will be where they need to be in advance, so our volunteers can spend more time building and less time waiting for supplies.

There have been some changes in the construction staff this year. Jeff Tucker continues as our Construction Manager; Ken Wallace is the Construction Operations Manager and Jim Wright is the Construction Superintendent. We also have three AmeriCorps members working with the Construction Department until Mid-July when their term ends. Amy Bayne, Jordan Crawford, and Bob Pine will be on-site daily helping lead volunteers and answer those pressing "how to" questions.

Another change in our construction plan is a shift from new construction to rehab projects. In 2009, we plan on six new builds and six rehabs (compared with nine new and three rehabs last year). As the real estate market continues to decline and the foreclosure rates in the neighborhoods we serve steadily increase, we are looking for ways to improve neighborhood quality and increase community pride. Taking on a greater numbers of rehabs has allowed us to acquire properties at greatly reduced (if not free) price, allows our families a choice on a higher cost new home or a lower cost rehabilitated home, and lower overall construction costs-which allow more businesses and organizations to be able to

Habitat Young Professionals
Join now!



Download a flyer
[Pro Fund Golf
Marathon](#)

April 25, 2009 event



Nice car. Donate it.

afford house sponsorship.

If you are interested in getting involved as a weekday volunteer, becoming an in-kind donor of products or services or are interested in rehab house sponsorship, please [get in touch](#). You, our Habitat friends, make it possible for us to reach out to families in need all over the city. We're ready to get the season started ... are you?

Lutherans Needed - Thrivent Builds 2009



"I didn't need any special skills to work on this build. I came with what I had and, when placed with the rest of the team, it was exactly what was needed to get the job done. God takes each of our offerings, when given for the right purpose, and makes them good!

" --Donna Mulder, Thrivent Financial member.

2009 is Habitat KC's third year with the Thrivent Builds program. This program has provided opportunities for local Lutheran churches, Thrivent members and various other church groups to come together and use their God given gifts to help families in need. This year's project is the 4th Thrivent house built with Habitat KC, located at 1601 E 33rd St, and volunteers will begin construction on March 31st, with a [wall raising ceremony](#) beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Through the Thrivent Builds program, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will sponsor the construction of hundreds of Habitat for Humanity homes across the United States by combining the efforts of their 2.8 million members with Lutheran congregations, institutions, communities, partner families and Habitat affiliates. More than two-thirds of the funding for each home will be contributed by Thrivent Financial, its members and local chapters. The remaining funding will be raised through the ongoing efforts of local Lutheran congregations and Habitat affiliates. In addition, all U.S. Habitat affiliates tithe (that is, give 10% of funds raised) to support building Habitat homes in other countries. Our tithe from the Thrivent Builds program this year will allow us to build two more houses in Africa.

Thrivent Builds requires 50% of the project volunteers to be Lutheran. We are currently seeking local Lutheran churches and volunteers to come together and help us get this house built. Please contact our [Faith Relations Coordinator](#) for more details on how your congregation can be involved.

Spreading the Word

Would your company, church or group like to know more about the things that Habitat for Humanity Kansas City does and how they can get involved? Did



Join our Cause!



Join our Cause!





Do you know that we have a Speaker's Bureau that will come make a presentation for you? Speaker's Bureau members are trained on all (well, most) things Habitat KC -- including ReStore-- and will speak with groups of any age. With 72 hours advance notice, we can make presentations any day of the week almost any time of day. Members are staff, homeowners and volunteers and can handle talking about a variety of topics. Specific topics you may want to highlight include:

- Recycling Programs (Cans for Habitat)
- Homeownership Program (how to apply to own a Habitat home)
- How to get involved and volunteer
- AmeriCorps program
- Family services (ways we work with families beyond simply building a home with them)
- Fundraising ideas
- Youth programs

If you have special requests, we'll do our best to meet them. For example, we made a presentation to a daycare group where we utilized the Habitat for Humanity [advocacy coloring book](#) to talk with children aged 4-7, introducing them to the concept of poverty housing and Habitat. We recently made another presentation to a church adult Sunday school class, of about 40 people, that focused specifically on the way we recruit and select our partner families. We could talk with your scout troop about community service project ideas, your PTA group about family friendly volunteer options or work with your school to set up a can recycling program. Our goal is to speak with at least two new groups each month.

To schedule a presentation for your group, please contact Mandy, Outreach Coordinator at 816-924-1096 x 105 or [email](mailto:mandy@habitatkc.org) mandy@habitatkc.org to make the arrangements. We'll need to know things like your preferred day/date and time, how long a presentation you'd like, what specific topics you'd like covered (if any), and about how many people we'll be speaking to. We're passionate about what we do and look forward to sharing it with you!

Upcoming Events



Check out our online [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) for more information.



ReStore

Save 10% (up to \$10 value) off your next purchase at our Kansas City Habitat for Humanity ReStore -- your local discount building

Save
10%

materials center. Please feel free to share this offer with friends and family.

4701 Deramus Ave | 816.231.6889 | www.restorekc.org
Some restrictions may apply. See store for details.

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