

# **Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Begins Construction on First LEED Townhomes in Saint Paul**

## ***Mayor Coleman joins families, volunteers to raise wall on new homes***

SAINT PAUL – SAINT PAUL – Receiving the largest donation it has ever received from partner Thrivent Builds, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity raised the wall on a new townhome Monday in Saint Paul that will be the local organization's first LEED-certified townhome development and one of the first in the nation.

The two townhome buildings under construction are on Case Avenue west of White Bear Avenue. They will feature three 3-bedroom townhomes each. The project brings to fruition seven years of effort to reclaim an unused brown field site in the heart of a neighborhood for family housing.

"In the past, many people have used the argument that we must choose either environmental sustainability or value," Mayor Chris Coleman said. "Today, Saint Paul is demonstrating that those are not mutually exclusive goals. In our neighborhoods, we are building both sustainable and affordable housing, and we are providing opportunities for families to own homes they can afford to buy and maintain, join good neighborhoods, and build strong communities."

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity has a long history of green building and sustainable development. It is currently the largest nonprofit builder of Energy Star-labeled homes in the state and recently completed its first LEED-certified single-family home in Crystal.



Products and building techniques for the Saint Paul LEED multifamily development will be chosen with the following criteria in mind:

- Identify green/sustainable techniques and building materials that can be easily replicated throughout the organization's construction operation.
- Choose products and techniques that are volunteer-friendly to implement or install.
- Select products that prove affordable and energy efficient in the long-run.
- Ensure that products and systems are easy to maintain for the future homeowner.

Thrivent Builds is a special alliance between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International that has committed \$125 million and thousands of volunteers over the past four years for the construction of homes across the globe. The local donation of \$1.3 million will help build 10 homes through the region, including the

two buildings and another in Saint Paul, three in Ramsey, two in Chaska, and one each in Brooklyn Park and Minneapolis.

“At a time when our country is reflecting on what went wrong with our economy and our housing market, this gift represents everything that is right with America - compassion, generosity and a commitment to rebuilding our community,” said Susan Haigh, president of TCHFH. “Thrivent embraces the hard working values that embody Habitat’s homeownership model, and they are ready to roll up their sleeves and help us make a difference.”

Including the current 10 homes, Thrivent Builds has partnered with Twin Cities Habitat on 33 homes, providing over \$4 million in sponsorship dollars. As part of the sponsorship, 10 percent of dollars received by TCHFH are tithed to Habitat International for its homebuilding efforts abroad. Worldwide, Thrivent Builds has built over 1,500 homes so far, with hundreds more planned for this year.

“Being able to help provide ten Twin Cities families with a home means so much to Thrivent members. Volunteering is important to our members, and this gives them a great way to personally support our community by helping families achieve financial security,” said Nikki L. Sorum, Senior Vice President of Field Distribution within the Minnesota Region for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. “And we are so excited to have three of the homes being built at Twin Cities Habitat’s first LEED multifamily project. Building green is another way to preserve the families’ financial stability by keeping their homes efficient and affordable to maintain.”