



MEDIA RELEASE

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Teens Brave the Chill and Live “Homeless” for One Night

More than 75 High School Students to Participate in “Shack City” Cardboard House Camp Out on Saturday in Reynoldsburg to Raise Awareness and Funds

Columbus, Ohio – The temperature for Saturday night is expected to be 41 degrees in Reynoldsburg, where more than 75 high school teens will camp out in crude cardboard box shelters for the night. The students are participating in Shack City to raise awareness of the plight of homelessness and substandard housing in our communities. Sponsored by Thrivent Builds, Shack City also aims to raise money to support Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus and the mission of building decent, affordable homes for low-income working families in Franklin County.

Shack City will take place on Sat. Oct. 16 at the Messiah Lutheran Church, 1200 Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg, 43068, beginning at 7:30 pm through 8:00 am on Sun. Oct. 17. Students will live without the usual comforts and amenities of home for one night to try to experience what it must be like for those members of our local community who live without adequate shelter.

“Today’s youth are more engaged than ever in addressing the challenges facing fellow citizens. By providing a reality-like experience of homelessness, we are able to raise awareness that often results in a lifetime of advocacy and volunteerism. We invite other school and church youth groups to get involved in this ongoing program,” said E.J. Thomas, CEO, Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus.

Shack City is organized by Habitat and Thrivent Builds to raise awareness of the realities of homelessness and substandard housing. Participating youth are encouraged to become advocates for the homeless and often become long-time volunteers for Habitat. Monies raised support home construction.

GENERAL INFORMATION

[Habitat for Humanity International](#) (HFHI), and [Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus](#) (HFHGC), is an ecumenical Christian housing 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 homes worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people. In the Greater Columbus community, Habitat has built more than 225 homes since 1987. The Greater Columbus Affiliate, through tithing to HFHI, has also helped to build more than 230 homes in developing countries throughout the world.

HFHGC is one of the only housing agencies in Franklin County targeting families who earn 30-60% of median income. HFHGC partner families are chosen after a careful review process during which Habitat assesses their need for housing; their ability to repay a zero-interest, no-profit mortgage and their willingness to partner with Habitat through sweat equity. All partner families are first-time homebuyers who earn 30-60% of the median income for Franklin County and currently live in substandard housing. Every partner family must perform a minimum of 200-250 hours of sweat equity, which includes working on their own house and those of other Habitat families, attending homeownership classes and providing Habitat program support. Every family also assumes a no-interest, no-profit mortgage with payments

based on family income. Because HFHGC holds and services these mortgages, Habitat has a long-term relationship with the homeowners and the communities in which they live.

Also supporting HFHGC is [Habitat's ReStore](#), a resale store that accepts and sells reusable home improvement materials to the general public. Revenue from sales directly offsets 100% of Habitat's administrative costs and assists in both eliminating substandard housing and creating homeownership in Greater Columbus. Habitat's ReStore is located at 3140 Westerville Road, 3 miles southwest of Easton; 2 miles south of Morse Road. The store is open to the public Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 12 – 5 p.m.

About Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit financial services membership organization helping nearly 3 million members thrive in life. Thrivent Financial and its subsidiaries 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 brings its members together for social, educational and volunteer activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. For more information, visit www.thrivent.com.

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Habitat's ReStore, 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224
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We hope that you enjoy receiving news about Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus and Habitat's ReStore. Should you wish to be removed from the Habitat mailing list, please send an email to beverly.martin@martinmarketingllc.com