



MEDIA RELEASE

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Teens Live “Homeless” for One Night to Raise Awareness and Funds for Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus

More than 70 High School Students to Participate in “Shack City” Cardboard House Camp Out on April 24 in Worthington

Columbus, Ohio – If you were homeless for just one night, would it make you forever aware of the challenges facing thousands of homeless individuals in the Columbus community? Habitat and Thrivent Builds invites you to experience what it is like to live without the comforts of a home while enhancing your awareness of homelessness and substandard housing issues. More than 70 young adults from youth groups throughout Greater Columbus will camp out on April 24 to experience homelessness and raise funds for Habitat. The teens will use cardboard boxes as shelter and will go without the usual amenities of their homes for one night.

The camp out will be held on April 24 at the Village Green, 773 North High Street, Worthington, beginning at 7:30 pm through 8:00 am, Sunday the 25th.

“I participated in Shack City this past fall because it was a new and unique way to get involved in service to the Columbus community, said Thomas Phillips, a junior at St. Charles Preparatory. The brief experience of being homeless for a night was an eye-opening one. It is fun to be surrounded by your peers while supporting such a good cause. We really are making a difference and having fun doing it!”

The following groups will participate in Shack City:

St. Luke Lutheran Church – Gahanna
St. Paul Lutheran Church – Westerville
All Saints Lutheran Church – Worthington
Gethsemane Lutheran Church – Worthington
Clinton Heights Lutheran Church - Clintonville
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – Dublin
Bethel Lutheran Church – Grove City
St. Charles Preparatory School – Bexley

Interested youth groups from area churches and schools should contact Ethan Beiler, Habitat’s Faith and Youth Relations Coordinator at (614) 364-7015 or ebeiler@habitat-columbus.org.

“Today’s youth are more engaged than ever in addressing the challenges facing fellow citizens. By providing a reality-like experience of homeless, 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,” 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 by the groups goes toward building homes for two working, low-income families in Franklin County.

About Habitat. [Habitat for Humanity International](#) (HFHI), and [Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus](#) (HFHGC), is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Habitat affiliates work locally in communities around the world to select and support homeowners, organize volunteers and coordinate house building. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 350,000 homes worldwide, providing shelter for more than 1.75 million people in 3,000 communities. In the Greater Columbus community, Habitat has built more than 220 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.

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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(614) HABITAT or www.habitatcolumbus.org.

Habitat's ReStore, 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224

(614) RESTORE or www.habitatcolumbus.org/restore

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