



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THRIVENT AND ST. CROIX VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RETURN TO
NEW RICHMOND IN JOINT HOUSING EFFORT IN 2021**

Faith Builds Venture is part of nonprofit's 25th Year Celebration

Thursday, October 29, 2020- *(Hudson, WI)* St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent are partnering in a Faith Builds Venture which will result in a new, affordable home for a Family Partner in New Richmond in 2021. The Venture project will engage churches, organizations and teams of volunteers to help support the build.

Both Thrivent and SCV Habitat will include a Generosity Challenge in their plans, encouraging faith congregations from across Pierce and St. Croix Counties to help raise walls, funds and prayers for a family or individual needing a home. "The impact to our communities is at the heart of our partnership and at the core of our shared commitment to focus on safe, affordable housing, promoting dignity and hope and supporting life-long success," said New Richmond Thrivent Financial Planner Jesse Kvitek.

Project leaders will seek volunteers in both construction and non-construction activities as well. "Our partnership with Thrivent deepens our relationships within our communities and extends the opportunity for additional organizational growth," said SCV Habitat for Humanity Board President Bill Richard. "Beyond the build, our goal will be to continue to grow and engage our partners to complete the project in the calendar year as we also respect Coronavirus safety guidelines. This new home is part of our 25th Year projects being planned in 2021."

The partnership commits 40 days of work toward the new home build and plans for specific volunteer build days that may include a Women's Build, Fireman's Build, Rotary Challenge Day, among others. "Together, Thrivent and Habitat put faith into action with a ministry of service that has a beginning and end," said Thrivent Engagement Leader Bruce Plautz. "We share the mission of engaging the community and activating volunteers, providing opportunities by giving back, building relationships with the Christian community, and engaging Thrivent clients in high-impact volunteer, educational and advocacy experiences. We worked with Habitat on a New Richmond project 10 years ago and are looking forward to the opportunity to return to the community in 2021."

Nationally, Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent have been building homes together since 2005. Volunteers have contributed more than 6.2 million hours of time and more than \$267 million to Habitat Faith Builds throughout the country. “It all comes back to housing. A home is a basic element in the cycle of success, from safety to education to financial stability. Each one follows the other,” Kvitek said.

SCV Habitat is currently looking for a family for this home. Applications are being taken through November 13 and can be found online at scvhabitat.org/apply.

About St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity helps families with safe, affordable housing. In 1996, community members in River Falls, WI and surrounding communities recognized the critical need to bring people together to build housing, communities and hope and founded the local, nonprofit Habitat affiliate. In its tenure, SCV Habitat for Humanity has partnered with more than 70 families in Pierce and St, Croix Counties to help achieve the goal of home ownership. Visit scvhabitat.org for homeowner and volunteer information and to support the mission to help families create successful futures.

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