

THRIVENT BUILDS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!



Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity and the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Western Region joining national \$21.7-million house-building effort to construct more than 300 affordable homes \$70,000 will go toward building 1 home in Las Cruces

Nationally, Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans are building up to 312 homes in 2006. The homes will be in addition to the more than 5,000 homes Habitat affiliates build annually in the United States. The homes will be built in more than 200 communities in 43 states. **The home being built in Las Cruces is 1 of 12 that was selected in the entire Western Region, which extends into California and Nevada, and only 1 of 2 in the state of New Mexico.** Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity is partnering with 4 churches in Las Cruces to raise funds to build this Thrivent Lutheran home. The churches are: Peace Lutheran Church, Mission Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church. We are extremely grateful for the involvement of these congregations, not only for their monetary contributions, but for their prayerful support and volunteer hours.

About Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit membership organization helping 2.8 million members achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities. As a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society, Thrivent Financial sponsors national outreach programs and activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. For more information, visit www.thrivent.com.

DEDICATION!



HOME SHOW

Are you doing any remodeling or construction? Then come to the Las Cruces Home Builders Association and Lifestyle Show, **June 10-11, 2006** at Oate High School! This show is a regional public marketplace showcasing businesses that cater to the home improvement and new home construction markets. People who want to build homes or improve their existing ones are invited to bring their project materials and questions to the show and receive advice from industry professionals. Come to **Oate High School, 6800 NE Main, on June 10 from 9-5, or June 11 from 10-4** to visit booths and see the latest happenings in home building and improvement!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM

We are still partnering with Albertson's Community Partners Program. If you are not part of this program yet, we have included a Community Partners Card in your newsletter donation envelope to help get you started. This is how it works:

Take your Preferred Savings Card and Community Partners Card you get with the newsletter to Albertson's the next time you shop. After shopping ask your cashier to scan your Community Partners Card with your Preferred Savings Card and Albertson's will automatically donate a percentage of the total cost of groceries to Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity!

If you have questions or would like to find out more about this program, visit www.albertsons.com and click on the Community Partners link.



GoodSearch

Now you can raise money for **Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity** just by searching the Internet at GoodSearch.com.

You use GoodSearch.com like any other search engine - the site is powered by Yahoo! - but each time you do, money is generated for us. Here's how it works:

1. Go to www.goodsearch.com
2. Type **Habitat for Humanity – Mesilla Valley** into the "I support" box and click on "verify".
3. Search the Internet just like you would with any search engine.
4. Since GoodSearch shares its advertising revenue with charities and schools, every time you search the Internet at GoodSearch, you'll be earning money for us.

GoodSearch also has a toolbar you can download from the homepage so that you can search right from the top of your browser.

You can keep track of our estimated earnings by clicking on "amount raised" once you designate us as your organization of choice. The more people who use the site, the more

MEET THE ALVAREZ'S

Where do you come from and how long have you lived in Las Cruces?

Idaho. Carlos lived there for 18 years and all of our Children were born there. We have been living in Las Cruces for 6 years and we moved here because it was too cold in Idaho.

Do you have a favorite holiday tradition or meal?

We sometimes like to go to Mexico to see family. We like to make dinner and talk. We make tamales and ponche, which is a warm tropical fruit drink that has oranges and sugar cane.

What do you hope for your life in 5 years?

To be in our house. To have a better life. To have good health. And to have all of my kids graduate from high school and college.

You have had a long wait to build your house. How does it feel to finally be starting to work on your own home?

It feels really good! It's very exciting.

What has been your favorite part of Habitat so far?

Building the houses and meeting the people who work on them. Carment said, "I like putting in windows and laying tile." Irving echoed, "It is fun to build and learn stuff that I have never learned before. It's exciting!"

What is your favorite thing to do as a family?

Eat together and go to church together. We have really good communication and we like to work together.

We have really good relationships with no boundaries.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Food Drive - Non-Perishables Needed

The Las Cruces Home Builders Association is collecting non-perishable food items for a Food Drive over Thanksgiving. They are trying to collect early and put together boxes of food for needy families in Las Cruces. If you would like to drop off cans or other non-perishable food items at the Habitat office, we will gladly take them over to the Las Cruces Home Builders Association. Please help us hlep others!

Family Partners Committee

Are you willing to give warmth and support to our family partners? Would you like to periodically have lunch with or get to know the families working for homes? Then maybe becoming part of The Family Partners Committee is the job for you! We are in need of mentors for the fall. We are looking for caring people who will show a genuine interest in seeing our family partners succeed in working towards a home. Tasks include attending a monthly meeting and contacting your family at least once a month. We welcome bi-lingual people and would love to have past Habitat families members become mentors. Please contact Thelma Kibler at the office if you are interested.

Family Selection Committee

We recently received 61 new applications for our next building season. Our family selection committee is hard at work beginning to choose the next families. We will be building 6 homes next season and will work towards building 7 the following year. An organizational goal for Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity is to build one more home than the previous year every year. Help us meet this goal by donating money, volunteer time, and keep your eyes open for available land!

HABITAT WISH LIST

- *Land
- *Ladders
- *Building (around 10,000 Sq Ft) for a used materials ReSale Store
- *Power Tools
- *Vehicles for Sale

**MESILLA VALLEY
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

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**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S
MISSION PRINCIPLES**

In all that we do in pursuing the mission of habitat for Humanity, we pledge to:

- *Demonstrate the love and teachings of Jesus.*
- *Advocate on behalf of those in need of decent shelter.*
- *Focus on shelter by building and renovating simple, decent, affordable houses.*
- *Engage broader community through inclusive leadership and diverse partnerships.*
- *Promote dignity through full partnership with Habitat homeowners and future home partners.*
- *Promote transformational and sustainable community development.*

**Computer Revamping &
Database Changes**

We are currently up-grading our database system. We would like to make sure our information is correct so we are better able to serve you. If there is a mistake in your address, or if you receive more than one newsletter, we apologize and please let us know. Please write us a letter with the correct information to notify us of our mistake so we can change it. Also, if you don't wish to receive our newsletter any longer, send the envelope back and indicate that. Thank you!