

Food for the Soul

Hold a potluck dinner and invite a homeowner to speak about what it means to have decent, affordable housing.

Thrivent Builds Promotional Fair

Have a promotional fair to help congregations understand the issue of substandard housing and to create awareness. Be sure to have Thrivent Builds program brochures, FAQs and other information to share. Schedule this fair on the same Sunday in all congregations so everyone hears the message regardless of the church that they attend.

Tour the Thrivent Builds Mobile

Visit the Thrivent Builds Mobile at a local event or State Fair. Check www.thriventbuilds.com to see if the Thrivent Builds Mobile will be in your area.

Trees for Today—and Tomorrow

Solicit donations of money to have a tree planted at the new home or have children plant flowers there. Check with the Habitat affiliate before proceeding with this activity.

Avoid the temptation to give “something more”

Just as important as the house you construct is the relationship that’s built with the partner family. While congregations and individuals may wish to give the partner families “a little something extra,” this can endanger the family’s sense of pride and foster ill will among other Habitat families. Contact the Habitat affiliate to learn if they have a policy concerning gifts to families. For more information, see What it Means to Partner with Families Quick Reference Guide on www.thriventbuilds.com.

Fund-raising events not only provide an opportunity to raise funds for your Thrivent Builds project, they also give you the opportunity to promote the good that is being done through Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity. Have Thrivent Builds program brochures, FAQs and other info on-hand to share.

Following are some ideas you may want to consider for a fund-raiser or a promotional event that can help increase awareness of Thrivent Builds. But don't stop here. Use your creativity and come up with other innovative activities that can raise money for—and participation in—Thrivent Builds programs.

Fund-Raising Activities

Be a Sport: Help a Family in Need

Work with local vendors who operate concessions at professional/semi-professional events. Thrivent Builds provides the workers and then reaps a percentage of the profits. Ask if announcements can be made during time-outs and at halftime to announce that a portion of the proceeds will support Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity.

Blankets to Build Hope

Work with a fabric store to get materials donated. Kids can tie and finish fleece blankets to be sold to raise funds for Thrivent Builds.

Building Hope ... Brick by Brick

Sell bricks with the donor's name on it to be used in a walkway. (Be sure to check with the Habitat affiliate before proceeding with this activity, as there are guidelines regarding the value of materials for each home.)

Build on Your Birthday

Instead of receiving gifts on your birthday, invite your friends and family to celebrate your birthday by donating the same number of dollars as you are in years to the Thrivent Builds project.

Buy a 2x4

Sell 2x4s and allow people to sign their names and write messages to the selected family. The 2x4s would be used to construct that family's home. (Be sure to check with the Habitat affiliate before proceeding with this activity.)

Chili Cook-Off

Invite congregation and community members to show off their cooking talents. Contestants pay a fee to enter the cook-off and prizes are awarded. Seek donations of these prizes from congregation members. Tickets can also be sold to attend the cook-off and sample different chili. Display Thrivent Builds posters and other promotional materials to let attendees know that proceeds support a local Thrivent Builds Homes project.

Hope: It's in the Cards!

Create Thrivent Builds greeting cards using pictures drawn by children who have benefited—or soon will benefit—from the Thrivent Builds program. Cards could be blank inside and sold at a variety of gatherings.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity Miracle Sunday

Lutheran congregations could organize a “Miracle Habitat Sunday” on the same day and partner with Habitat and all local Lutheran congregations to raise funds through a common project or by collecting free-will donations, using the Thrivent Builds fund-raising donation envelope (order item: 22485E).

Penny Challenge

Use the cardboard house banks available through Habitat for Humanity International and hand them out at Sunday School. Challenge kids to collect pennies to help build hope by building homes.

Raise-the-Roof Run and Walk-a-thon

Step out with the youth for a walk-a-thon. Set a high goal and challenge youth to obtain “over-the-top” pledges. You can also organize a Walk-a-thon Youth Challenge, where one group of young people challenges another group in the church to match their donations through a phone-tree campaign.

Souper Bowl Party

High school students can make ceramic bowls in art class. Have a soup-and-sandwich dinner, spaghetti supper or other dinner and sell the bowls at the event.

Thrivent Builds Stamp- and Scrap-a-thon

Invite individuals to a fun-filled day of stamping and scrapbooking. Charge an entry fee, serve refreshments and award donated prizes for the most creative pages or most pages completed in a day. Daycare services could be provided by high school students. Children could use pictures from magazines and newspapers to make their own scrapbooks about what they think families need to have in their homes.

What’s Cookin’ with Thrivent Builds Cookbooks

Create a Thrivent Builds cookbook using recipes submitted by new homeowners and volunteers. Sprinkle in “grace” recipes throughout. Include an Introduction page that gives a brief overview of Thrivent Builds (using information provided in Thrivent Builds Homes Consumer FAQ). Also highlight the fact that many of the recipes in the book were provided by new homeowners and volunteers who participated in the Thrivent Builds Homes project in your area.

Window Shopping

In the church bulletin, list how much a window costs, how much a door costs, and so forth and let people make a donation toward the purchase of one of those items for a Thrivent Builds Homes project.

Wrap Up for Thrivent Builds Homes

Get permission from a local store or mall to offer holiday shoppers gift-wrapping services. Promote that all proceeds will go to support a local Thrivent Builds Homes project. Have information about Thrivent Builds available for shoppers to look at while they are waiting for their gifts to be wrapped and/or to take with them.

Fund-raising and Awareness Event Ideas

Quick Reference Guide

Service and Awareness Activities

You also may want to include a fund-raising element with some of the following activities:

Building ... Hope Chest

Have high school students make a hope chest for the new Thrivent Builds homeowner family and have younger kids fill it with small donations for the family's home. Work with the Habitat affiliate to determine what the family needs.

Building a Collection

Children attending Vacation Bible School can learn the importance of giving and helping others by collecting items that will be needed to build a home, such as work gloves, boxes of nails, etc.

Calendar and House Bank

Contact your Habitat affiliate regarding a calendar and "house bank" available through Habitat for Humanity International. Distribute the items to families in the congregation prior to your Thrivent Builds project or a Thrivent Builds Mobile visit. Each day, children do as instructed on the calendar (i.e., deposit a nickel for each window in their house, etc.). It's a great way to help make children—and entire families—aware of what they have and what it is like to live without these things in low-income housing. Money collected can go to support your local build.

Collegiate Challenge

Talk with your Habitat affiliate about this special program that provides the opportunity for college students to build with Habitat during their spring break.

Decorate or Construct a Picnic Table

Habitat affiliates often donate a picnic table for each build, as it is often the only table on-site. Have children decorate it in honor of the new homeowners. You could also have teens assemble picnic tables and then donate them to various builds in the area. Check with the Habitat affiliate before proceeding with this activity.

Face the Family

Put a "face" to the Thrivent Builds family to help congregation members connect to the need in the community. It is very motivating to "see" the face behind the story. Have past recipients share their story and their experiences before, during and after the build.