

# Faith Builds Quarterly Update

## Greetings from the Habitat and Thrivent Partnership!

The Faith Builds Quarterly Update was created to help you stay on top of program milestones and connected to program staff throughout the year.

## Faith Builds Reporting

As you continue to work as a local partnership team to plan engagement opportunities for your Faith Builds, please submit regular [project status reports](#) to keep the Habitat and Thrivent Partnership team informed of events and progress.

For Faith Builds Venture projects, please note that reporting is due two weeks after the completion of your Venture. Construction of the home **does not** need to be completed to submit your final report.

## Inspiring Impact

This quarter's Inspiring Impact story features a family in Brainerd, Minnesota, whose journey has been inspirational and transformative.

Travis and Mary live in a 2-bedroom apartment with an unsafe basement, paying \$980 for their monthly rent and an additional \$400 for monthly utilities. They clean sewer backups and wipe down mold regularly to make their apartment a healthier place to live. But they don't live in their apartment alone. Travis and Mary have six children, five of which are adopted (four grandchildren and a grandnephew). Travis and Mary sleep on their living room couches so the kids can sleep in beds. Their apartment serves not only as a home, but also as a learning environment since Mary home-schools all six of their children.

Mary cried tears of joy when she learned that Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity selected her family to become homeowners. The family looks forward to living in a 5-bedroom, 2-bath home in Brainerd. They look forward to not having to move to new places all the time and saving money once they have an affordable mortgage. Mary and Travis have already put in over 300 hours of sweat equity, and their enthusiasm for building their home alongside the local faith community shows no signs of slowing down.

The Lakes Area Habitat and Thrivent Partnership have engaged with 16 local churches providing volunteers, funds, and prayer support on their 2021 Faith Build. Mary and Travis grew up in the Catholic church but have not been practicing for many years. In working alongside their local faith community, Mary and Travis have been inspired to return to their Catholic roots, and now plan to raise their kids in the faith that they were raised in. They are so grateful for the partnership between Habitat and Thrivent that made their dream of homeownership possible and look forward to staying involved in the local faith community after they move into their new home.

*We want to hear your stories! Please [send us your most impactful stories](#) for a chance to be featured in a future Quarterly Update.*



## 2021 Faith Builds Facts & Figures\*

- 1 Faith Builds Homes completed
- 14 Faith Builds Ventures completed
- 103 outstanding Faith Builds Homes and Ventures to be completed by December 2021
- More than \$1.7M raised from local church partners through the Generosity Challenge
- More than \$6.8M committed by Thrivent to support local communities and more than \$3.4M distributed to affiliates
- 8,547 participants and volunteers engaged through the Habitat and Thrivent Faith Builds program contributing more than 68,000 volunteer hours

\*As of July 31, 2021