

Faith Builds Quarterly Update

Greetings from the Habitat and Thrivent Partnership

We are looking forward to a year of partnership and community building through your 2021 Faith Builds! The Faith Builds Quarterly Update was created to help you stay on top of program milestones and connected to program staff throughout the year.

At this point, you should be actively working as a local partnership team to plan for virtual engagement. Please note we still have restricted in-person guidelines until July 1, 2021. Continue reading this newsletter for upcoming deadlines, virtual engagement planning and a featured inspiring impact story.

Milestone One is due March 1, 2021

Your first affiliate [project status report](#) is due by March 1 to meet milestone one requirements and receive the first half of your Faith Builds award funding. The following is required as a part of milestone one:

Faith Builds Homes

- Confirm that Project Address is updated and accurate.
- Enter Planned Start and Completion Dates in the Build Progress section of the report.
- Enter partner congregation information in the Church Engagement and Fundraising section of the report.

Faith Builds Ventures

- Confirm that Project Address is updated and accurate.
- Enter Planned Start and Completion Dates in the Build Progress section of the report. This date range should be the 40-day period that you have selected for your Venture project.

For returning Faith Builds partners, remember that project status reports no longer need to be submitted monthly. Please submit regular reports as you have project updates to communicate to the Habitat and Thrivent Partnership team. We have made additional changes with the project status report including:

- Eliminating a separate Congregational Commitment Summary form.
- Adding Engagement Leaders as a recipient of the confirmation email upon submitting the project status report.

[Contact Anna Brandt](#) on the Habitat and Thrivent Partnership team if you have any questions about meeting milestone one requirements or the project status report.

Virtual Engagement

Engaging in-person volunteers in Faith Builds work continues to be difficult due to current COVID build site restrictions. We encourage you to work with your Thrivent engagement team to discuss possibilities for virtual engagement opportunities throughout your Faith Builds.

Our Habitat and Thrivent Partnership team understands that virtual engagement will be instrumental to achieving your engagement goals. Stay tuned for a virtual engagement framework and additional resources coming soon that you can utilize in your local community for quick-win engagement opportunities!



Inspiring Impact

This quarter's Inspiring Impact story features the Habitat and Thrivent Faith Builds in Lehigh Valley and the blossoming relationship with students at St. Thomas More school in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Through the power of the Faith Builds Generosity Challenge, students have been inspired to find new ways to contribute their time, treasures, and talent to support Faith Builds!

In January of 2018, students at St. Thomas More school fell into the routine of planning their annual junior high charity dance. But they wanted 2018 to be different: bigger and better than previous years -- to hit their \$10,000 fundraising goal set and missed year after year. They yearned to make a long-lasting impact, not simply donate a one-time check. The planning team learned about Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley and quickly realized the beautiful alignment to Habitat's mission and the opportunity to have their generosity amplified through the Faith Builds project. A few months later, the St. Thomas More school community successfully raised \$10,100 toward Habitat Lehigh Valley's 2018 Generosity Challenge with their charity dance. A beautiful partnership had thus begun.

Since these initial contributions, St. Thomas More's efforts have expanded beyond their annual charity dance to include events such as the Night of Giving, where school families purchased Christmas presents for all the Habitat Lehigh Valley families in the homeownership program and their children. During National Catholic Schools' Week, STM has supported Habitat Lehigh Valley's Faith Builds in various ways including holding \$1 out-of-uniform days for students, making lunches/snack bags for Faith Builds volunteers, writing cards of encouragement and gratitude to volunteers, and donating helpful supplies for construction sites and the Habitat office. Most recently, STM held a Year of Giving event which raised over \$3,000 for the 2020 Habitat and Thrivent Faith Build.

The partnership between Habitat Lehigh Valley, Thrivent, and St. Thomas More has not only resulted in successful fundraising but also actionable steps and initiatives young people can take to serve their local community. This thriving relationship affords opportunities to step outside donations and onsite construction volunteering and step into creating a future of support from a community of people that truly want to build faith *and* build homes. *We want to hear your stories! Please send us your most impactful stories for a chance to be featured in a future Quarterly Update.*

Remember, we're here if you need us!

Please don't hesitate to contact that [Habitat and Thrivent Partnership Team email box](#) if you have any questions. We are looking forward to Faith Building with you in 110 communities across the country this year!

Resources Corner

The Habitat and Thrivent Partnership team has dozens of resources available to you to assist you with all things Faith Builds. Be sure to add the [Habitat and Thrivent Resources](#) page as a favorite for easy resource access!

As you plan forward, take a look at our [Faith Builds Guide](#) which provides a program overview, Faith Builds planning considerations, church and volunteer engagement guidance, and everything in between.

When connecting with partner churches, share the [Faith Builds Church Engagement Toolkit](#) to assist them in getting the word out to build excitement within their congregations about your Faith Builds partnership.

