



NEWS RELEASE

HANDS ON DISASTER RESPONSE • P.O. BOX 546 • CARLISLE, MA 01741

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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\$100,000 DONATED TO AID LINN COUNTY, IOWA FLOOD SURVIVORS

Hands On Disaster Response receives financial contributions from Haber family and AEGON Transamerica Foundation.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 9/2/08 – Hands On Disaster Response (HODR), a volunteer-driven 501(c)3 nonprofit, recently received \$100,000 to be used to support the organization's flood recovery efforts in Linn County, Iowa. Half of the contribution was donated by HODR volunteers Adam and Renee Haber, and those funds were matched by the AEGON Transamerica Foundation.

The Haber family traveled from their home in Long Island, New York to Cedar Rapids, Iowa last week to volunteer with HODR. Adam, Renee and their two children spent three days gutting and mucking out flood-damaged homes. Deeply moved by their experience, they felt compelled to make a monetary gift to help the community.

“We decided to come to Cedar Rapids to help out when we witnessed on television the devastation done by the flooding. We wanted, as a family to make a difference,” Adam Haber says. “We chose Hands On Disaster Response because of their history of excellence and ability to get a community back on its feet quickly.”

The Haber family's donation was matched by the AEGON Transamerica Foundation. Following the flood, the foundation established a special fund to assist in recovery and rebuilding efforts. The Foundation's \$50,000 contribution to HODR is the first money to be distributed from the Foundation's 2008 Relief Fund.

AEGON Transamerica Foundation President David Blankenship says, “Hands On has been instrumental in organizing and deploying volunteers, and we are very pleased to support their commitment to our community's recovery.”

During the record-breaking flooding of June 2008, more than 5,000 structures in Cedar Rapids and all but 10 of the 423 homes in nearby Palo, Iowa were affected. On June 23, 2008, HODR launched its flood recovery project and began organizing volunteers to assist the residents of these communities.

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Since then, the organization has coordinated more than 1,400 volunteers (over 300 of which have been local AEGON affiliated employees) and completed cleanup of over 250 homes.

HODR's US Operations Director Bill Driscoll Jr. says, "These extraordinary gifts will take Project Cedar Rapids to new heights and expand our reach in this resilient and caring community."

For additional information on HODR or Project Cedar Rapids, or to support HODR's efforts by volunteering or making a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.HODR.org or contact Tiffany Kelley at (319) 350-3653 or Tiffany@HODR.org.

ABOUT: Hands On Disaster Response is a US-based, volunteer-driven, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to timely disaster response and relief. HODR strives to provide hands-on relief to survivors of natural disasters with maximum speed and minimum bureaucracy. HODR projects focus on applying volunteer resources and expertise to communities affected by natural disaster. Previous projects: USA (2008 Missouri tornadoes), USA (2008 Arkansas tornadoes), Bangladesh (2007 Cyclone Sidr), Peru (2007 Pisco Earthquake), Philippines (2006 Typhoon Reming), Indonesia (2006 Jogjakarta Earthquake), USA (2005 Hurricane Katrina), and Thailand (2004 Southeast Asian Tsunami). Donations made to HODR are tax-deductible. Tax ID #20-3414952

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