



NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ONE MONTH AFTER HISTORIC FLOODING IN IOWA MASSACHUSETTS-BASED HANDS ON DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTS TO ANOTHER 3 MONTHS OF RELIEF EFFORTS

Organization extends Cedar Rapids flood response project to late October.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 7/16/08 – Hand On Disaster Response (HODR) is a volunteer-driven certified 501(c)3 non-profit organization, currently deployed in Iowa after recent record-breaking flooding. The organization's Project Cedar Rapids is coordinating volunteer efforts to meet the needs of flood-affected residents and has recently announced the extension of its efforts to October 25, 2008. HODR has been serving the Cedar Rapids area through volunteer services since June 23, 2008.

In Palo, IA, a community of 500 homes, approximately 470 were flooded. In Cedar Rapids, Iowa's second largest city, more than 5,000 structures were affected. There are still thousands of homes to be gutted. HODR has extended Project Cedar Rapids in response to the unfaltering need for volunteer resources.

Volunteers are helping with removing flood-soaked home contents and gutting out drywall and flooring, along with other services. All volunteer labor provided by HODR is free of charge. In the 3 weeks of the organization's efforts in the Cedar Rapids area HODR has coordinated more than 550 volunteers from 28 states, including New York, and as far away from devastated Cedar Rapids as Washington, New Mexico and Florida. Volunteers, ranging in age from 10-years to 81-years, have gutted more than 70 homes in Cedar Rapids and Palo, bringing families one step closer to rebuilding.

"The flood affected so many people, many without insurance to cover repairs. There is a lot of work to be done and we are here to help, to continue to support this community in its recovery," says Bill Driscoll Jr, Project Cedar Rapids Operations Director.

Project Cedar Rapids is HODR's 9th deployment including recent responses to tornadoes in Missouri and Arkansas, and to Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh. HODR was founded by businessman David Campbell, a resident of Carlisle, MA, as a result of the devastating effects of the tsunami in December, 2004, when his one week volunteer visit in Thailand turned into a one month stay. To date, HODR has mobilized more than 3,000 volunteers from 30 countries through its projects around the world assisting in recovery after natural



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disasters. HODR provides volunteers with housing, meals, tools and organized work at no charge to the volunteer.

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 Rebeca Howard at (781) 570-9412 or Beca@HODR.org.

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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 have included 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.

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