



NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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HANDS ON DISASTER RESPONSE BIDS FAREWELL TO BANGLADESH

Volunteer Project Comes to a Completion

CARLISLE, MA 4/29/08 – Hands On Disaster Response (HODR), a volunteer-driven 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, completed their volunteer project in Rayenda, Bangladesh on April 17, 2008 after four months of providing help to the survivors of Cyclone Sidr that devastated the Bangladesh coast on November 15, destroying schools, business, and homes.

Project Rayenda was a challenge from the beginning with difficult transportation, a caretaker government and a range of devastated areas in need of help, but it ended as a great success thanks to the adventurous volunteers. The 50 volunteers from 10 countries, with an average stay of 31 days, gave their time, energy and hearts to a variety of projects carried out in the community. Projects included building 15 HODR Half Homes (not half a house, but the start of a full house), rebuilding schools and repairing a Hindu Temple with the Interagency Assessment Team (comprised of the U.S. State Department, Department of Defense, USAID, and branches of armed forces), building five playgrounds alongside Save the Children, distributing and installing latrines with local NGO Agroduct Foundation, and tree removal.

In a sea of love the volunteers shared a goodbye celebration with 250 friends from Rayenda, which included girls singing the national anthem, traditional dance performances and singing, and a slideshow. In true HODR tradition the volunteers ended the project by creating an inventory of all tools and household items into 95 lots for needy families in the area (not including recipients of a HODR Half) and held a lottery to find out which lot each family would receive. Everyone was in great spirits with cheering and even dancing. To read more about Project Rayenda and their many celebrations visit the website, www.HODR.org.

HODR continues to need the support of its donors. Donations can be made securely on the website, www.HODR.org. All donations are tax-deductible and will be used effectively in their relief projects.

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For additional information on HODR's Project Rayenda, please visit the website, www.HODR.org or contact Paula Ogletree at 706-476-0310 or paula@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. Their projects focus on applying volunteer resources and expertise to communities affected by natural disaster. Previous projects have included Thailand (2004 Southeast Asian Tsunami), USA (2005 Hurricane Katrina), Indonesia (2006 Jogjakarta Earthquake), the Philippines (2006 Typhoon Reming), Peru (2007 Pisco Earthquake), Bangladesh (2007 Cyclone Sidr), and USA (2008 Arkansas tornadoes). Donations made to HODR are tax deductible.

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