

# HANDS ON

DISASTER RESPONSE



2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Non-Profit Organization



Dear Friends,

October 25, 2007

As said by one of our volunteers, Barbara Gooding, “What I see as a vision for what you have created with Hands On is giving every human being living anywhere in the world a chance to come together for the sole purpose of helping each other...such a simple idea.”

During the past year, Hands On volunteers helped in Jogjakarta after the major earthquake there last summer. Then we went to the Philippines after the devastating category V typhoon of November 30th. Today, over 150 volunteers have deployed to Peru to aid the survivors of the August 15, 2007 earthquake.

Our veteran Operations Director Marc Young has led these international projects. He’s established practices and relationships that contribute to our effectiveness. The spirit of our volunteers, who show up, dig in (sometimes literally) and adapt to the local needs, continues to amaze me and differentiate what we do.

The photos in this report, and on the [www.HODR.org](http://www.HODR.org) website, show volunteers tarping houses, repairing schools, replacing fishing fleets, clearing debris, as well as teaching classes and helping arrange microfinance projects. The smiling faces, of both our communities served and the wonderful volunteers, show how deeply the value of “helping each other” drives our work.

A group of substantial donors has allowed us to establish a two-year growth plan that includes two great staff additions: Bill Driscoll, Jr, as our third operations director, and Paula Ogletree as our director of communications. A veteran of HODR’s Katrina Project, Bill then founded Persevere Disaster Relief and spent the next eighteen months coordinating volunteer rebuilding efforts in Pass Christian and Bay Saint Louis. Paula joined the HODR team in August to focus on donor, alumni and public relations. During her first month she spent time in Peru working alongside the volunteers to get a firsthand understanding of HODR’s purpose, methods and impact.

We are engaged, encouraged, committed, and at work. Donor support will allow our volunteers to be the face (and hands) of a world that cares, and who make a difference. Our motto “Be the change” is brought to life every day we are able to bring our volunteer power to help survivors of natural disasters.

Thank you for caring and sharing,

David Campbell  
Executive Director  
Hands on Disaster Response

## HODR LAUNCHES EARTHQUAKE RELIEF PROJECT IN PISCO, PERU

On August 15, a magnitude 8.0 earthquake struck Peru killing over 500 people, damaging schools and hospitals, disrupting livelihoods, and destroying over 40,000 homes. Arriving August 20th and after touring some of the hardest hit areas the HODR assessment team identified the Pisco Playa community as a location with great needs and where HODR could have a significant impact.

Our volunteer project began on September 8, 2007 and to date we have had over 150 volunteers from 21 different countries. During the next few months we will support the recovery efforts of Pisco, Peru through a variety of projects - removing debris, repairing farm irrigation systems, rebuilding schools, assisting hospitals and providing children programs.

For more information on volunteering or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit [www.HODR.org](http://www.HODR.org).



## HODR'S NEW WHEELS

American Medical Response (AMR) generously donated a retired ambulance to us for disaster response. The new HODR "Mobile Command Unit" will be used while responding to domestic natural disasters.



## NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR OUR 2,000 VOLUNTEER ALUMNI

We have a new online community for HODR alumni. Visit [www.hodralumni.org](http://www.hodralumni.org) to access the site and create a profile. This alumni social network is a great way to keep in touch and share photos, videos and blogs with other alumni.



Hands On Disaster Response launched Project Santo Domingo in the Bicol region of the Philippines in December, 2006, after Typhoon Reming ripped through southern Luzon on November 30, 2006.

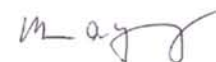
A category V typhoon, Reming blew apart homes, tore off roofs, and caused the flooding which triggered lahar flows that obliterated entire communities and buried others. The Bicol region was one of the hardest hit. They needed relief, and HODR was there to help.

Within the first month 15 volunteers from eight different countries were on site to help the people of the Bicol region regain their livelihoods. Before our project was done four months later, HODR had 86 volunteers pitch-in, and the work showed their generosity.

Hands On Disaster Response assisted with many projects in Santo Domingo. One of the biggest successes was restoring a fishing fleet that was almost completely wiped out by the storm. HODR furnished the materials and hired an expert builder to assist the 21 boat owners in building their own boats - their livelihood. The outcome was overwhelming and the community was grateful.



*"In our four months in the Philippines we shoveled lahar, tarped roofs, rebuilt schools, built boats, planted coconut trees, shared laughs, made life long friends, and ate a lot of pork! We may no longer rise to pre-dawn crowing of a rooster, thumping of a karaoke machine, or roar of a trike, but the memories and the work that we did in Santo Domingo will live on. Thanks to the people of Santo Domingo for welcoming us into their home, and thanks again to the volunteers for their hard work and their heart. We'll see you at the next one..."*



Marc Young  
Operations Director



Volunteers helped carry the boats (some finished with names chosen by donors) the 1/4 mile from the community building area to the beach. The children, proud fathers and hardworking mothers gathered near the sea for the blessing of the fleet carried out by a Catholic priest. The fishermen knelt next to their boats, shielding candles from the wind, as the priest asked for their safety on the seas. The boats were launched and the volunteers were given rides, followed by rides for the children and a celebration of food, laughter, and fun.



Another major part of Project Santo Domingo included rebuilding local elementary schools in cooperation with the Scandinavian Children's Mission (SCM). HODR volunteers jumped right in and didn't stop until the new schools were ready for the children. They roofed, painted, replaced windows and doors, rebuilt walls and enjoyed the children's company.



HODR volunteers continued to assist the community by tarping homes for families, reconstructing a daycare center, replanting coconut trees, and clearing lahar and debris.

Thank you to all who helped through volunteering and to those who made donations; the project would not have been possible without your help.

**Make your tax-deductible donation at [www.HODR.org](http://www.HODR.org) or mail a check to our address, located on the back.**

EVENT: EARTHQUAKE • LOCATION: SAWIT • 6/1/06 - 10/1/06



After a magnitude 6.3 earthquake rumbled the village of Sawit, just south of Jogjakarta in May 27, 2006. Hands On Disaster Response set up camp in June and volunteers, along with very proactive residents, began to clear the land and start the rebuilding process.



A variety of relief efforts were needed in this devastated region. Projects included labor intensive debris removal from homes in the community, helping residents clear their space, and salvage materials to expedite reconstruction. HODR volunteers worked alongside the community residents to bring relief quickly and effectively.



The children in this region helped make a difference by keeping everyone's spirits high and lending a helping hand whenever possible. Their laughter and smiling faces were a great reminder of why HODR volunteers devote so much of their time and efforts.

Toward the close of the Sawit project a Hands On USA alum, Nick Taranto, working on a Fulbright grant to bring microfinance opportunities to Indonesia, introduced us to Kompip, who were establishing projects throughout the country.





Hands On provided start up money to establish a co-operative type of bank that was self-managed and that allowed the community to draw small loans for livelihood development. The project is currently helping many people in the village of Sawit.

Project Jogjakarta was a successful relief project thanks to all our volunteers and generous donations!



*"The situation here is amazing! We have this little house in the middle of a very hard hit village. We are currently helping the very proactive residents clear the 'ruins' from the footprint of their home. The reward has been great – just as we finish the clearing and they have adequate space they start hauling in bamboo, fresh cut from neighboring stands, and begin to erect their version of transitional shelter! They lash the bamboo together and then put a tarp over the top and have something that will provide shelter while they re-build their house around it. The work at present can be physically demanding, but we are starting to find other projects to become active in ( in true HandsOn fashion!). I don't think I have laughed as hard, as honestly, and as often as I have among the ruins with the people of the village of Sawit"*

Marc Young  
Operations Director



HANDS ON  
DISASTER RESPONSE

# FINANCES

FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2006 THRU AUGUST 31, 2007

Contributions	\$308,939
Expenses	
Program Expense	\$221,321
Administrative Expense	\$18,527
Change in Net Assets	\$69,091

Information from audited financial statement.  
Full copy available at [www.HODR.org](http://www.HODR.org)

David Campbell, Executive Director  
Cell: 617.312.2999

Paula Ogletree, Director of Communications  
Cell: 706.476.0310

Tom Taylor, Administration Manager

Darius Monsef IV, Operations Director

Marc Young, Operations Director

Bill Driscoll, Jr, Operations Director

Mike Cegielski, Board Member

Pete Kirkwood, Board Member

**Hands On Disaster Response**

**PO Box 546**

**Carlisle, MA 01741-1819**

**Fax 586.314.2999**

**info@hodr.org**

**www.HODR.org**

**Make your tax-deductible donation today!**

**Mail your check to the address above or donate online at [www.HODR.org](http://www.HODR.org).**