



NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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LOCAL ORGANIZATION SENDS TEAMS TO ITALY AND ARKANSAS IN THE AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING DISASTERS

Hands On Disaster Response of Carlisle, MA Responds

CARLISLE, MA 4/16/09 – Hands On Disaster Response (HODR), a Carlisle, MA-based, volunteer-driven 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has launched a volunteer project in response to the Mena, Arkansas tornado, and an assessment of the L’Aquila, Italy earthquake. Carlisle resident David Campbell, and Bill Driscoll, Jr. of Milton, head to disaster zones to offer HODR’s help.

Mena, Arkansas was struck by an EF3 tornado on Thursday night, March 9, 2009, destroying an estimated 100 homes and damaging more than 600 homes. On April 16, 2009, HODR launched Project Mena to assist in the recovery efforts. US Operations Director Bill Driscoll, Jr., of Milton, MA is on-site leading HODR’s Arkansas efforts.

“The City of Mena took a direct hit by an EF3 tornado. We’re happy to do what we can and will lead volunteers to fill the gaps while the area’s recovery takes shape and the community gets back on its feet,” says Driscoll of HODR’s Project Mena. Driscoll and HODR also responded to a tornado in Arkansas in February 2008, during which the organization coordinated 205 volunteers and assisted 133 families in their recovery.

On Monday, April 6, 2009, just a few days before the powerful tornado in Arkansas, a massive 6.3 earthquake hit L’Aquila, Italy devastating schools, churches, and homes. The damage has left an estimated 40,000 people homeless in Italy’s Abruzzo region. HODR

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Executive Director David Campbell, Co-Founder of the grass-roots organization and a Carlisle resident, will travel to Italy on April 19, 2009 with HODR's International Operations Director, once the emergency phase has settled. The team will evaluate the damage and the needs of the community in order to determine if HODR's volunteer resources can be utilized to assist in the aftermath of the earthquake.

HODR relies on the support of donors to bring direct assistance to communities affected by disaster with maximum impact and minimum bureaucracy. More than 90% of every donation goes directly toward HODR's response efforts, and all donations are tax-deductible. Please give generously to support HODR and the disaster-affected communities this local organization assists.

For more information about the MA-based organization, volunteer information or to make a secure tax-deductible donation, visit www.HODR.org.

ABOUT: Hands On Disaster Response (HODR) is a US-based, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, dedicated to providing hands-on assistance to survivors of natural disasters around the world, with maximum impact and minimum bureaucracy. By supporting volunteers with housing, meals, tools, and organized work at no charge we are able to provide free and effective response services to communities in need. Donations made to HODR are tax-deductible. Tax ID #20-3414952.

Previous projects: Haiti (2008 Hurricanes), Iowa (2008 Flooding), Missouri (2008 Tornado), Arkansas (2008 Tornado), Bangladesh (2007 Cyclone Sidr), Peru (2007 Pisco Earthquake), Philippines (2006 Typhoon Reming), Indonesia (2006 Jogjakarta Earthquake), Mississippi (2005 Hurricane Katrina), and Thailand (2004 Southeast Asian Tsunami).

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