



NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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VOLUNTEERS LEND A HAND IN MENA

Hands On Disaster Response leads volunteers in city's recovery

CARLISLE, MA 4/16/09 – Hands On Disaster Response (HODR), a volunteer-driven, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has launched Project Mena in response to the recent tornado.

Mena, Arkansas was struck by a destructive 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. HODR anticipates being in Mena for at least one month coordinating volunteers to help with the clean-up and recovery phase, including tree and debris removal.

David Eisenbaum, a volunteer who traveled from Massachusetts to lend a hand says that “it seems that people are often neglected by the wider world once their disaster is out of the news; I want to show people that they haven't been forgotten.” All HODR services are free to the community and are provided by volunteers. If you have been affected by the tornado and need assistance please call (479-234-7971).

“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 Bill Driscoll Jr., HODR's US Operations Director.

Driscoll and HODR also responded to a tornado in Gassville, Arkansas in February 2008, during which the organization coordinated 205 volunteers and assisted 133 tornado-

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affected families.

HODR welcomes individuals and groups of volunteers for any duration and does not charge a volunteer participation fee. For more information about HODR, how you can help and to make a secure tax-deductible donation to support Project Mena, 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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