

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE

BACKGROUND

Flood Stage/Bank Full 12 Feet
Previous “Big” Flood (1993) 19 feet
All-time Previous Crest (1929) 20 feet
Flood Crest (Friday, June 13, 2008) 31.12 feet

Extent of Flooding

10 square miles (1300 square blocks) – 14% of Cedar Rapids under water.
18,623 people (15% of Cedar Rapids’ 125,000 population) – evacuated from homes.
1834 displaced elementary and secondary students
5390 homes impacted by the flood
594 businesses with 9000 employees



Representatives from the fourteen parishes in the Cedar Rapids area met immediately after the historic flood to organize their responses to meet the needs in their community. Utilizing the facilitation skills and disaster response experience of representatives from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque and representatives from Catholic Charities USA Disaster Response, each parish chose a Parish Disaster Recovery Coordinator/s. Catholic Charities made the commitment to hire a full-time Disaster Services Coordinator to be stationed in the Catholic Charities Cedar Rapids office.

Parish Disaster Recovery Coordinators began meeting on a regular basis, supporting each other as they helped determine and plan how parishes would coordinate their unique gifts and resources to minister to households and neighborhoods impacted by the flood in the Cedar Rapids area. Every parish brought relief and recovery to those affected by the flood. Here are some examples of what has been happening in the area from June 13, 2008 to the present. The Catholic community of Cedar Rapids has donated over **41,548 documented hours** of volunteer labor.

- *The "Parish Partners" program provides intensive family-to-family support for flood-affected parishioners at St Ludmila, St Patrick, and St Jude parishes, meeting the emotional, financial, and material needs of households.*
- *Led by St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Church, St Pius X Church, and St Joseph Church of Marion, teams from within the Cedar Rapid parishes have cleaned, mucked, repaired and rebuild homes.*
- *A Saturday Day Camp for flood-effected children was hosted and led by St Matthew in the fall of 2008.*
- *Meals, prayer services and other community remembrance and education events for flood survivor, volunteers and parishioners have been hosted at various parishes.*
- *Food baskets and holiday baskets have been assembled and delivered to flood survivors, including those living in FEMA trailers.*
- *Volunteers have donated time and resources to rebuild and repair St. Wenceslaus Church and St. Patrick Church.*
- *Parishes have collected and distributed food through food pantries.*
- *The students of the Metro Catholic schools sold flood recovery T-shirts and raised \$4, 016.00 for flood recovery activities.*
- *\$225,000 in \$500 grant awards was distributed through Catholic Charities for immediate aid to flood-affected households throughout Iowa.*
- *The Knights of Columbus have collected and distributed food, household supplies and grant awards.*
- *In March 2009 Eight (8) Volunteer Case Advocates representing four parishes received a two-day training and began working in partnership with United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to provide case advocacy services in the Cedar Rapids area.*
- *A session of "Camp Noah" for flood-impacted children was conducted in June at St. Ludmila Church.*
- *Block-by-Block partnership*
- *Block-by-Block Thanksgiving Homes*

Most recent—*Coordinating agency for Spring 2010 Church World Service building blitz inter-faith Hospitality Committee*

As a Catholic community, we can support flood survivors through prayer and volunteering our time on a rebuild or food team. Recovery is ongoing. There is still time to volunteer to help those affected by the flood. You may contact your parish coordinator by calling the parish office or call Catholic Charities at 319-364-7121.