



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HELPS FLOOD VICTIMS

After the flood disaster in the Fond du Lac region last June, the United Way set aside \$10,000 and raised an additional \$7,000 within the community to help victims of the flood.

"It didn't stop there, however," said Tina Potter, executive director of the Fond du Lac Area United Way.

Fond du Lac Area Foundation, United Way and Holy Family Catholic Community coordinated funds and worked with Long-term Flood Relief volunteers who provided a case management to identify and help families and individuals affected by the flood.

"A coordinated approach is the best strategy any group of partners can put into place to provide timely and effective services," said Potter. "And the three of us have worked together very well.

People seeking assistance were referred to the Fond du Lac Public Library, where a temporary office was established to manage the outreach and services needed. To date, 31 households have been helped through the partnership.

"The Foundation and County provided the leadership to bring together the community," said Potter. "They included Alliant Energy, local government, non-profit organizations, healthcare, schools and businesses – all of whom worked together and kept one another informed of their efforts."

The Long-term Flood Relief effort was coordinated by Jim Hubbard, Diane Hausinger and MaryAnn Geiger at the request of Allen Buechel, Fond du Lac County Executive and Tom Herre, City Manager. The County and City was concerned about having a second tier of help in place following the initial response by emergency government, Red Cross, Salvation Army and others.

Once people in need of help were identified by trained volunteers, they worked with victims to identify their needs that were not covered, or covered only in part, by FEMA.

"This is yet another illustration of how we pulled together for the good of our community," said Gayle Hytrek, United Way board president. "Holy Family Catholic Community, Fond du Lac Area Foundation and United Way have established a great partnership and it's nice to know we can come together to help others in a time of need."

"It's all our donors who we really need to thank. If it weren't for them we wouldn't have the funds to allocate and for that we are all very grateful", said Potter.

Anyone in need of assistance due to the June 2008 flood should contact the Long-term Recovery Committee located at the Fond du Lac Public Library at 929-7080 to set up a meeting with a volunteer.

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