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DUBUQUERS CONTINUE FLOOD RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

Next Volunteer Bus Trip Scheduled for August 21

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Volunteers from Dubuque continue to assist Eastern Iowa communities affected by natural disasters earlier this year.

Dubuque's Housing Education and Rehabilitation Training (HEART) Partnership, of which the City of Dubuque is an active partner, and Gronen Restoration of Dubuque are assisting the City of New Hartford with recovery efforts by providing people, skills, tools and energy. HEART program job trainers Ron Fritz and Kyle Fitzgerald, current and former participants, and City of Dubuque Housing Inspector Bob Boge have made three trips to New Hartford to restore the community's 800 square-foot library. New Hartford leaders have identified the library as the heart of their community. They made rebuilding the library a priority in order to provide a location for children's activities and a symbol of the community's recovery. To date, Dubuque volunteers were able to shim, insulate, sheetrock, mud and sand the library walls in preparation for finish work.

"One of our participants who had finished his service with Juvenile Court Services decided to come back and volunteer his time to help New Hartford," said Christine Happ Olson, executive director of Found Mounds, a HEART Partner. "This was an opportunity for all our participants to have a greater reach by helping this community and seeing the flood impact first hand. In turn, they experienced being valued for their skills and service, alongside professionals."

City of Dubuque Planning Services Manager Laura Carstens is helping the City of New Hartford and Brian Schoon, Director of Development and Transit with the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments, to prepare a Comprehensive Land Use Plan as part of the city's recovery from both tornado and flood damage. Carstens said, "I am inspired by the tenacity of the New Hartford City Council. This planning effort will help bring the community together in a positive, forward-thinking process to create a vision for this town's future -- preserving, rebuilding, and growing."

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, City of Dubuque, and local businesses are partnering to sponsor volunteer bus trips that will travel to our neighboring communities that are in need of helping hands to recover from and rebuild after this spring's natural disasters. The first group to travel to Cedar Rapids, sponsored by Dubuque Bank & Trust, joined together to gut four homes in one day that received extensive water damage throughout their first floors.

Additional volunteers are needed for the next bus trip to assist with flood recovery in Cedar Rapids next **Thursday, August 21**. The bus will leave at 7:15 a.m. from the Hope Church parking lot (11893 John F Kennedy Rd). Volunteers will be dispersed throughout a Cedar Rapids neighborhood and will be assisting locals with mucking, cleaning, and gutting their homes and businesses.

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Individuals or businesses interested in signing up to assist in flood relief should contact Cori Burbach in the City Manager's Office at 564-0343 or cburbach@cityofdubuque.org. Volunteers are asked to wear long pants, hats, sturdy work shoes, and bring leather and rubber gloves. If available, volunteers should also bring with them rubber boots, hammers, pry bars, and utility knives. Safety glasses and masks will be provided. Tetanus shots are not required, but are advised.

Additional bus trips are scheduled for **Friday, Sept. 5**, and **Thursday, Sept. 25**. The destination of these buses will be determined by the need of affected communities. Businesses interested in sponsoring the trips, or individuals interested in participating, should contact the Community Foundation at (563)588-2700 or Cori Burbach.

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