

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 12, 2016

MOUNTAIN MISSION ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH GROUPS TO BEGIN REBUILDING HOMES ALONG THE ELK RIVER

Cornerstone Interiors, Hands on West Virginia, Lowes of Kanawha City join the partnership

Charleston, WV – Saying it's time to start the rebuilding phase of its flood recovery effort, Mountain Mission Executive Director John Roberts today announced a unique private-nonprofit partnership aimed at helping residents along the Elk River rebuild their homes. The partnership includes Cornerstone Interiors, Hands on West Virginia and Lowes Home Improvement of Kanawha City.

"We want to make an immediate impact and get families back in their homes as soon as possible," said Roberts, who said the initiative would be named "The HOPE Project." HOPE stands for Helping Our People along the Elk River.

Roberts said the effort would not be possible without the partnership with Glenn Jeffries, president of Cornerstone Interiors, and Hands on West Virginia's Executive Director Mike Shinn. Cornerstone Interiors is a construction company and Hands on West Virginia is a non-profit organization that manages volunteer workers. Lowes of Kanawha City is providing most of the materials at cost.

The HOPE Project will focus solely on replacing drywall, insulation, electrical systems, and subflooring, said Roberts. The group will provide the materials to homeowners who will coordinate the installation process. If a homeowner needs help with installation, Mountain Mission will direct them to organizations in the community that can provide the services.

Shinn, whose organization will help coordinate volunteers, says homeowners will be required to fill out a three-page application that is available at the Clendenin Church of the Nazarene or online at www.MountainMission.com. Once the application is received, a member of The HOPE Project will schedule an onsite visit to assess the property and discuss the group's process, Shinn said.

Roberts says Mountain Mission has raised over \$250,000 for the project and believes that the initiative can currently help 170 homes in the Elkview and Clendenin area.

"The need is great and we believe that there are more than 500 homes in that region that could use our support," said Jeffries. "If additional funding is available through grants and donations, we are prepared to provide support to families in Clay and other counties along the Elk River that were devastated by the floods."

Under the HOPE initiative, Jeffries said approved homeowners will receive up to:

- 35 sheets of drywall and other drywall materials;
- 40 electrical receptacle outlets;
- 1,800 feet of insulation;
- 35 sheets of subflooring; and
- One (1) electrical panel box, if needed.

To qualify, the applicant must own the home that was damaged; initially the home must be located in Kanawha County; must have registered with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and received a final determination from the agency; and their home must not have been condemned by the FEMA.

Those interested in volunteering can call Hands on West Virginia at (615) 294-9070 and cash donations can be made at www.MountainMission.com.

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