



Serve Christ by *servicing the city- together*

Announcing: A sister Corporation of Serve The City; Hope Community Development Association

What is Hope CDA – a brief introduction?

On Tuesday, 4 days prior the flood of 2008, Serve The City was actively involved in warning 535 households to prepare for evacuation. We were asked to contact 3,000 more on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. At one point we had 3,000 volunteers on our list.

After 4 weeks we handed volunteer deployment off to the Linn Area Long Term Recovery Coalition and transitioned into rebuilding activities which has continued to this date.

At present we have two paths we are taking.

1. For the future, we are participating in the formation of a county response team with 14 structured response units that can be activated for the next disaster.
2. At the same time we still have much to do to heal the effects of the flood of 2008 right now!

The short term situation is daunting; unemployment is near record levels, neighborhoods are decimated, school children's lives are turned upside down, and extended families scattered. We will also have 300 to 500 homes that could be rehabilitated along with 600 empty lots in our community!

In the long run, if we are not proactive, by 2013 to 2015 our region could experience disastrous peaks in suicides, domestic abuse, divorce, alcoholism and other addictions. We plan to be proactive.

Therefore, the Board has decided to transition our rebuild efforts in a new direction by forming a sister corporation called Hope Community Development Association which will focus on rebuilding lives via the vehicle of rebuilding homes with a multi point emphasis.

Flood affected households

We can rebuild homes by using grants for funding & volunteer labor when possible to keep the rebuild costs at appropriate levels:

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We can rebuild lives by connecting those we serve with resources existing now in our coalition such as:

- Providing home maintenance classes
- Classes such as **Crowne Financial, Financial Peace University** or **Freed Up Financial Living**.
- Marriage Mentors for those needing a little support or **Divorce Care** for those divorced.
- Scholarships to **“Weekend To Remember”**
- Inclusion by partners in one of their marriage seminars.
- Classes on “how to shop for healthy food” and “how to cook healthy”
- Connecting a client with ***Celebrate Recovery*** as needed.

“Seek the Welfare of the City where I have sent you” Jeremiah 29:7

A Mission America Partner – Serving His One Church – Many congregations but One Church

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We will form partnerships with qualified entities outside the STC coalition for other needed resources such as:

- Guaranty Bank: Mentoring potential homeowners whose credit score prevents them from obtaining a mortgage on how to become eligible.
- Other locally owned lending institutions as well, Guaranty Bank used as an example.

Non flood affected households:

Every sector of our community has a few homes that, shall we say, have fallen upon hard times. We desire to come along side families in those situations, when appropriate.

We can rebuild lives of the unemployed by obtaining a grant from the Iowa Economic Development Fund that would enable us to hire unemployed individuals. By working for us they would obtain an income, learn the basics of a trade and build some self-esteem.

These are ambitions goals, but with the current situation, how can they not be. What's the dream? By 2013 many of our neighbors saved from harmful trends, neighborhoods coming back to life, properties returned to tax roles and economic development that benefits our "heart of the city" businesses. Would you like to participate in this great vision? We could use your assistance in the following ways:

1. Provide us with a rebuild contact – which could be the same as your Care contact.
2. Provide contact information for existing ministries that are open to non-member households.

See ** on page one.