

**Forward Edge
International**

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Northwest churches sending hundreds of volunteers to devastated U.S. Gulf Coast in ongoing relief and rebuilding efforts

***Vancouver-based Forward Edge International
schedules 42 teams for ministry and
reconstruction in the hurricane disaster zone.***

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Thanks to a million-dollar matching grant, Vancouver-based Forward Edge International is doing along the recovering Gulf Coast what it has done best during its two decades of ministry: continuing to assist the survivors of Katrina's violence long after the story has dropped from network news—specifically, repairing homes and building long-term relationships among survivors.

Since the hurricanes roared through in August and September, over 700 FEI volunteers from around the country—and especially from the Northwest—have worked on a hundred homes in Louisiana and Mississippi, not to mention five church buildings.

These FEI teams are “focusing in particular on assisting the elderly and the poor with no insurance to get back into their homes, and on repairing damaged church facilities,” says FEI executive director Joseph Anfuso.

Many of the volunteers on FEI's 42 teams are from the Northwest. Volunteers are scheduled or have already served from churches in Portland (Cedar Mill Bible Church, New Song Community Church, New Beginnings Christian Center, Mosaic Church), in Salem (Morning Star Community Church, Salem First Church of the Nazarene, Salem's Emmaus Community), and elsewhere in the area—Rolling Hills Community Church (Tualatin), SouthLake Church (West Linn), City Harvest Church (Vancouver), Harvest Community Church (Beaverton), Christian Gospel Assemblies (Newberg), and Oak Street Church (Silverton).

Since 1983 Forward Edge International has mobilized young people and adults to express God's love in practical ways in the U.S. and around the world. FEI organizes and facilitates teams of short-term volunteers (from churches, schools, and campuses) to complete service projects, distribute emergency aid, and—in the words of executive director Anfuso—“be the hands and feet of Jesus.” In its two decades this nonprofit has equipped and sent more than 700 short-term mission teams and 8,000 volunteers to 33 nations.

For information about volunteering with Forward Edge—or elsewhere around the continent and the world—contact FEI at katrina@forwardedge.org or 360-574-3343

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