



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Over 90 Volunteers Reach out to Lewis County Flood Victims

**Vancouver, WA (January 26, 2009)** Forward Edge International (FEI), a Vancouver-based disaster-response and community development organization, mobilized over 90 volunteers to serve flood victims in the Chehalis area this past Saturday, January 24. Volunteers came from the greater Portland area as well as Vancouver and Edmonds, Washington. Relief volunteers served 11 families in Glenoma and Morton, Washington. Workers gutted out homes and removed mud and debris from the flood victim's homes, necessary first steps to help prevent mold and prepare the properties for reconstruction. Forward Edge partnered with the Lewis County Long Term Recovery Organization and the White Pass Coalition.

"These volunteers were absolutely awesome," Alana Smith, Volunteer Coordinator with the White Pass Coalition reported. "It would have taken most of these people weeks if not months to accomplish what was done last weekend. Everyone was professional and very willing to help, jumping in wherever they were needed."

The sheer amount of mud and silt that was found in these homes was overwhelming. Mud and debris covered the floors of homes and businesses, up to four feet high in some places. The current need for help with debris removal is great, as will be the reconstruction effort. Forward Edge is currently planning additional day/weekend trips. As long as the need exists, Forward Edge will work to serve its neighbors.

Since the floods of December 2007, Forward Edge has assisted flood victims in the Lewis County area through financial support and mobilization of hundreds of volunteers.

Since 1983, more than 10,000 volunteers have served with Forward Edge in the U.S. and around the world. By mobilizing hundreds of volunteers each year, Forward Edge International alleviates suffering through disaster-response work, health care projects and programs for vulnerable children.

Charity Navigator, America's Premier Charity evaluator, recently awarded Forward Edge its 4-star rating for the second consecutive year. This rating is Charity Navigator's way of congratulating Forward Edge for its ability to execute its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 18% of charities rated by Charity Navigator have received at least 2 consecutive 4-star evaluations.

To learn more about local disaster response, to join a team or donate funds, or for more information about Forward Edge, contact Carma Roetcisoender, Communications Director, at [carma@forwardedge.org](mailto:carma@forwardedge.org) or 360.574.3343.

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