



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Local Disaster Response for Hurricane Ike Rises

**Vancouver, WA (October 10, 2008)** Forward Edge International (FEI), a Vancouver-based disaster response and community development organization, is mobilizing local volunteers to travel to Texas to help the victims of Hurricane Ike. Teams from Pearland, Texas and Tacoma, Washington are already scheduled for October, 2008 and January, 2009, respectively. More teams from the Northwest and other areas of the United States are currently forming.

FEI has been working in the Gulf Coast area for more than three years, helping respond to the needs left by Hurricane Katrina. They have sent nearly 2000 volunteers to the region, helping restore 300 homes, 25 churches, and countless lives. FEI is uniquely positioned to lead the Hurricane Ike response effort, as they have on-the-ground staff, tools, expertise and numerous local contacts.

FEI field staff living in the Gulf Coast arrived on the scene in Texas days after the storm hit, assessing damage and helping where they could. They delivered ice and water, and helped patch holes in gaping roofs. Jeff Thompson, FEI Gulf Coast Field Coordinator, reported, "There are many families in the Texas area, families who's homes are ripped apart and flooded, who have no resources to rebuild. The need for funds and volunteers is tremendous."

FEI exists to mobilize people to share Christ's love with those affected by poverty, disaster and sickness in the United States 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. Since 1983, more than 11,000 volunteers have served with FEI worldwide.

For more information regarding FEI or the response effort for Hurricane Ike, or to schedule an interview, contact Carma Roetcisoender, Communications Director, at [carma@forwardedge.org](mailto:carma@forwardedge.org) or 360.574.3343.

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