

Flood Recovery Ongoing in Northwest Missouri

As weather begins warming up this spring, recovery work is ongoing in northwest Missouri from last summer's Missouri River flooding.

Caseworkers will meet with flood victims in the Fellowship Hall of the Craig Church of the Nazarene between 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on March 29th and April 2nd. The meetings will help the caseworkers to determine the unmet needs of affected households, and they will also help determine the number of volunteers that will be needed and the tasks volunteers can do.

Reverend Tom Beutler (bye-lurr) is the Atchison County coordinator of volunteers for the Atchison-Holt Long Term Recovery Committee. He says Atchison County volunteers have been helping people get back into their homes. (play audio :52)

Volunteers are also helping with repairs to a home in Corning in Holt County. Beutler says they're looking for someone to coordinate volunteers in Holt County, though he says many people there are waiting for levees to be repaired before they make repairs to their homes.

Many volunteers are waiting to come to northwest Missouri to help with continued flood recovery efforts. Rev. Beutler says there is a lot of physical work that needs to be done. (play audio :28)

Many of the volunteers have come from churches, including many retirees. Beutler cites the example of one of the many volunteers who helped flood recovery efforts in Hamburg, Iowa, last summer. (play audio :34)

The Atchison-Holt Long Term Recovery Committee was formed in the wake of the flooding of 2010. Beutler says it will be many years, if ever, before all those affected by the flood can get back to what could be considered a "normal" life. He says many people forced out of their homes last summer are still renting a temporary residence while making payments on a house they cannot live in. (play audio :44)

Clients needing to talk to a caseworker can make an appointment by calling 660-253-4600.

Individuals or organizations interested in volunteering with the ongoing recovery effort can contact Reverend Tom Beutler at 660-993-2244. Anyone interested in coordinating Holt County volunteers can also contact Reverend Beutler.