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Subject: FYSA- Media Monitoring Report for DR 4241 SC 02/25/16

Attachments: 022516 MM Report for DR-4241-SC.docx

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## **FYSA- Media Monitoring Report for DR 4241 SC 02/25/16**

### *NEWS CLIPS*

SOUTH CAROLINA-DR-4241

Thursday, February 25, 2016

#### **Issues:**

- None.

#### **Summary:**

- Coverage of volunteer agencies assisting in the rebuilding process. Investigative report on one customer dissatisfied with their NFIP experience.

#### **Analysis:**

- None

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#### **Flood Victim Gets Back Into Her Home With A Little Help (WLTX)**

[Mary Sturgill](#), 8:52 p.m. EST February 24, 2016

Columbia, SC (WLTX) Rebuild together is an organization that helps people get back into their homes after they were damaged by the flood. they've been quite busy but Wednesday the first owner occupied rebuild was complete and the homeowner gets to move back in this weekend.

Rebuild together is a partnership between the United Way, the St. Bernard Project, and Mungo Homes Foundation. With the help of countless volunteers, Jennifer Gneiser's home is ready for her to move in. Gneiser says she plans to start the moving in process this weekend. But she says she is not even sure what household goods she can salvage. Everything she owns has been in the storage crate in front of her home since the flood. But she says despite that, she is so grateful to those who made this day possible. She is the mother of two teenage boys, who during this rebuilding process have been staying with their father. But Jennifer says she is

ready to have them home. She tells News 19, "It's more than just a project. It's somebody's home. and regardless of where this person was staying or this person was staying, it's our home, it's all we've known together since we moved in here so to see it all put back. It was just really overwhelming."

Reese May, National Director of Post Disaster Recovery Operations for St. Bernard Project says, "It's also proof of the power of partnership and the values of this community."

Gneiser says she knows there is much more to do in her community. She says, "The struggle isn't over and it continues for a lot of us and it will continue for years to come. So we just have to keep coming together as a community and working forward as a community to put as much of this behind us as we can and make a new day for everyone."

St. Bernard Project helps flood victims rebuild and renovate their damaged homes. (Photo: wltx)

St. Bernard Project tells News 19 they have 120 applicants and 45 people on their waiting list who all meet their qualifications.

Funding for ReBuild Together was provided by United Way and the Michael J. Mungo Foundation

## **Volunteers return to Georgetown County to continue flood reconstruction efforts (Georgetown Times)**

By Max Hrenda

After completing its initial phase of reconstruction in the wake of the historic rain and floods of October, an international charity has returned to Georgetown County to pick up where it left off.

On Feb. 16, workers with the international charity All Hands Volunteers began their second phase in helping low-income homeowners repair and rebuild after the October floods.

All Hands was one of several volunteer organizations that descended on Georgetown County in the wake of the historic storms and subsequent floods. Within days of the initial storms, President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency and, days later, representatives with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Small Business Administration arrived to assess damage and provide financial assistance.

Although the federal government dispersed hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of recovery loans and grants, according to All Hands Project Director Kim Grisham, there were multiple instances in which homeowners were left out to dry.

"When FEMA came in, they only assessed for flood damage," Grisham said. "... However, a lot of these homes have roof or exterior damage that wasn't related to the flood, but it was related to the storm. ... We're looking at it as a more complex disaster than just the flood. There are a lot of people here who did not receive FEMA funds to cover these damages because of this issue."

Despite that, Grisham said, most of All Hands' initial response has been centered on dealing with damages related to the flood. During its first phase between October and December, All Hands volunteers devoted most of their efforts to "mucking and gutting" — removing water-damaged parts of homes — and debris removal. In about two months, Grisham said, volunteers were able to "muck and gut" about 76 county homes.

Now, Grisham said, volunteers are returning to focus on some of the other damages left behind by flood water. "At the conclusion of our initial response, we saw there was still going to be a need for mold sanitation services, as well as to repair and rebuild," Grisham said. "... We have a process where we meticulously clean the surfaces and treat, in a particular way, with bleach to essentially remove as much mold as possible. That way, when you rebuild, you don't have that mold growing up behind your walls."

As of Tuesday, Feb. 23, eight county homes had been treated using this mold sanitation technique. Grisham said she expected those and other efforts to continue throughout the second phase, which could take until May to complete. She added as many as 35 All Hands volunteers would arrive in Georgetown County to participate. "Georgetown County was considered to be one of the more badly damaged areas by the flood," Grisham said. "... I think a lot of us really feel it's important to give back. When you have a disaster that exceeds the capacity of the local population to deal with it or recover as quickly, we all think they should have help to do so."

Any homeowners seeking assistance recovering from the October floods can contact Catholic Charities at 855-377-1357, ext. 74.



(click thumbnail to play)

**FEMA on WCBD-CHS (NBC) - Charleston, SC**

**02/25/2016 05:34:49**

**News 2 Today (News)**

... their home still looks like this because they're at an impasse with fema, the federal agency running the national flood insurance program. all claims go through them. it's been nearly five months ...