

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City Honors Group That Donated Nearly \$1 Million In Volunteer Hours To Help 2014 Flood Victims

Warren, MI – When Warren was hit with a record rainfall and subsequent basement and street flooding on August 11, 2014, a volunteer group called Southern Baptist Disaster Team quickly jumped into action to help flood victims.

The group will be honored by Warren Mayor Jim Fouts on Friday, July 29 at 11:30 a.m. at Schofield Elementary School, the date the group will end its volunteer effort.

Fouts said the group recruited 1,235 volunteers from various states since the flooding. They came from as far away as Colorado and Arizona just as they worked on rebuilding homes in New York state after Hurricane Sandy.

Some of the volunteers came from local communities and worked on the flood in Warren two years ago.

One group of 653 worked from August 11, 2014 to October 15, 2014. A second group of 582 worked from June 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 to help flood victims clean their basements and homes and repair damage from the flooding.

The group cleaned basements, replaced roofs and even assisted in rebuilding 23 homes. The group assisted 492 families in Michigan with the most in Warren.

Volunteer hours for both periods totaled 47,783 with a monetary value of \$969,251.

The volunteers were housed in a closed public school in Warren Fitzgerald District from June 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 with the city paying all utility costs at the location.

“These volunteers were invaluable in helping residents when they desperately needed help, and then they returned to help even more,” said Fouts, who praised Councilwoman Kelly Colegio for originally contacting the group’s leader on August 11, 2014. “Our city is forever indebted to each of the volunteers for the time and expertise they contributed.”