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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE TO REBUILD HOMES IN FORT MYERS, FL, THIS MAY**

Tupelo, MS – Eight Days of Hope (EDOH) will host its nineteenth rebuilding trip in Fort Myers, FL, to help rebuild homes that were impacted by Category 4 Hurricane Ian on September 28, 2022.

This outreach will take place from May 20-27 and will bring over 1,300 volunteers to assist families with home repairs across the Fort Myers community. Projects will include roof repair, drywall installation, interior and exterior painting, electrical and plumbing work, flooring, and much more.

“Hearts were broken across the world watching the storm bear down on Southwest Florida as it destroyed this community,” remarked Steve Tybor, “Today, we are excited to announce our plans for an eight-day rebuilding outreach that will bring volunteers from across the country to provide hope and healing to hundreds of families in need!”

EDOH is partnering with The Heights Foundation, Summit Church, TCG, AIM, CRR, United Way, Builders Care, and other local businesses, churches, and foundations, with the goal to serve 150 families during the eight-day outreach. It is free to volunteer, and food and lodging are provided. To register to serve or for more information regarding how to get involved, please visit [www.eightdaysofhope.com](http://www.eightdaysofhope.com).

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## **ABOUT EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE**

Except for a small staff, Eight Days of Hope is an all-volunteer organization. We serve all people regardless of race, gender, religion, or ethnicity. Please visit [www.eightdaysofhope.com](http://www.eightdaysofhope.com) for more information, to provide financial support, or to volunteer.

## **ABOUT THE HEIGHTS FOUNDATION/THE HEIGHTS CENTER**

The Heights Foundation works to build self-sufficient families in the Harlem Heights neighborhood. Our mission is to support education and wellness, promote family and community development, and provide the benefits of enrichment and the arts. The Heights Center, supported by The Heights Foundation, is a place for Education, Opportunity, and Enrichment. Heights Early Learning serves more than 80 babies through 4 years old. The Heights Center serves 134 children in AfterSchool and SummerCamp. The Harlem Heights Community Charter School serves 180 children from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Harlem Heights was originally settled as a rural agricultural community. Approximately 780 children live in a mixture of single-family homes and multi-family apartments. Demographically, the population is approximately 70% Hispanic, 20% African-American, and 8% Caucasian. The poverty rate for children in Harlem Heights is more than twice the county average, with family income 40% below the county average. As a result, families cannot easily access family support services in downtown Fort Myers and benefit greatly from programs within the neighborhood.