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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE BRINGS 1,200 VOLUNTEERS TO FORT MYERS TO REPAIR HOMES AFTER HURRICANE IAN

Tupelo, MS – Eight Days of Hope (EDOH) is in Fort Myers, FL, serving over 100 families in the Harlem Heights Neighborhood who were impacted by Hurricane Ian with free home repairs with the help of over 1,200 volunteers. This outreach starts today, Saturday, May 20, and will continue through Saturday, May 27.

“Our mission each day is to bring hope to Southwest Florida after the tremendous loss that this community experienced and continues to walk through. We are here with arms open wide, ready to help, ready to bring hope and healing,” shared Stephen Tybor III, EDOH President and CEO.

EDOH is partnering with The Heights Foundation, Builders Care, Summit Church, Adventures in Missions (AIM), Crisis Relief and Recovery (CRR), Trinity Commercial Group (TCG), and United Way. Together, with these local partners and volunteers from across the country, EDOH will assist 100 families with repairs such as roofing, flooring, drywall installation, painting, plumbing, and more!

“The poverty rate in Harlem Heights is more than twice the county average,” said Kathryn Kelly, president, and CEO of The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center. “We know that almost 90% of the homes in Harlem Heights were damaged in Hurricane Ian. Many families lost everything in this storm; their homes, their vehicles, and their jobs in the service industry. We are grateful for the magnitude of support that Eight Days of Hope and their partners are bringing to Harlem Heights to restore this community.”

Following Hurricane Ian, EDOH served in the Fort Myers and Sarasota communities for 5 weeks, helping over 200 families with immediate disaster response. We are excited to help many of these families take additional steps in their recovery journey.

To learn more about this outreach and how you can get involved, please visit 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 for more information, to provide financial support, or to volunteer.

About the Heights Foundation and 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 After School and Summer Camp. 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.