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EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE ANNOUNCES 21ST REBUILDING TRIP TO TAKE PLACE IN AVOYELLES PARISH, LA

TUPELO, MS — Eight Days of Hope (EDOH) has announced its 21st rebuilding outreach, EDOH XXI, which will bring volunteers from across the country to Avoyelles Parish, LA, January 16–23, 2027. The outreach will serve families still recovering from the historic flooding caused by Tropical Storm Arthur in June 2026.

“After serving in Avoyelles Parish following Tropical Storm Arthur, the stories and struggles of the families we met stayed with us,” says Chandler Gurley, Vice President of EDOH. “We witnessed the devastation, listened to families’ stories, and saw their determination to move forward. Now, we have the opportunity to return with hundreds of volunteers ready to serve, encourage, and help bring hope to families as they continue the road to recovery.”

During the eight-day outreach, volunteers will serve families through roofing, plumbing, flooring, painting, carpentry, and other rebuilding efforts.

“Every rebuilding trip is about much more than what we can accomplish in eight days,” says Steve Tybor, Founder & President of EDOH. “It’s about showing families that they have not been forgotten. It’s about bringing people together from across the country who are willing to give their time,

their skills and their hearts to serve. We're excited to return to Louisiana, and I believe EDOH XXI will be a powerful opportunity to bring hope to a community that has walked through significant challenges since June."

EDOH XXI is made possible through the support and collaboration of community leaders, local churches, organizations, and regional partners. Those involved include Building a Better Avoyelles, Love Acadiana, Avoyelles Early Recovery Group, Community Foundation of CENLA, StormWise, the William C. Schumacher Family Foundation, Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, United Way, Louisiana Department of Health, the LSU AgCenter State Evacuation Shelter, Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church of Plaucheville, Knights of Columbus Plaucheville Chapter, Big Cane Baptist Church, Mayors Beryl Holmes and Terry St. Romain, and Joey Franks. The outreach also has the support of Senator Heather Cloud and State Representative Daryl Deshotel.

"The LSU AgCenter is proud to work with Eight Days of Hope on this important initiative to support the communities of Central Louisiana impacted by flooding earlier this year," shared Dr. Matt Lee, Senior Vice Chancellor, LSU AgCenter. "Agriculture is the backbone of many of these rural communities, and recovery means helping not only families and businesses, but also our farmers, producers, and rural economies rebuild and become more resilient for the future."

Senator Heather Cloud and State Representative Daryl Deshotel shared the following joint statement:

"Since the historic flooding caused by Tropical Storm Arthur, we have witnessed firsthand the devastation so many families across Avoyelles Parish have endured. But we have also seen the incredible strength, faith, and resilience of this community. The announcement that Eight Days of Hope is coming to Avoyelles Parish is truly an answered prayer for families still struggling to recover. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has worked to make this possible. We are especially excited about the partnership between Building a Better Avoyelles and Eight Days of Hope. This collaboration brings together the dedication of our local community with the experience and resources of an organization committed to helping families rebuild. It is a powerful example of what can happen when people come together with a shared mission of serving others. From the beginning, our commitment has

been to ensure these families are not forgotten. There is still work ahead, but today brings renewed hope and a brighter future for so many."

Additional information about EDOH XXI, including volunteer opportunities and ways to support the rebuilding outreach, is available at eightdaysofhope.com. Residents can submit their applications for assistance at http://Buildingabetteravoyelles.com.

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ABOUT EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE

Eight Days of Hope (EDOH) exists to love and serve those in need who have been impacted by natural and human disasters. Our Rebuilding, Rapid Response, and Mass Feeding Ministries offer support in the aftermath of natural disasters through immediate disaster response, rebuilding homes, and providing meals. Our Safe House Ministry builds places of refuge and restoration for survivors of human trafficking. 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 LSU AGCENTER STATE EVACUATION SHELTER

The Louisiana State Evacuation Shelter, located at the LSU AgCenter's Dean Lee Research and Extension Center near Alexandria, LA, serves as a facility for housing people during state-declared natural disasters. The shelter is an important resource in Louisiana's disaster response efforts. For more information, please visit www.LSUAgCenter.com.