

## **2011 ANNUAL REPORT LEND A HAND**

This year has truly been the most eventful, exhausting, exhilarating, expansive, expensive experience in the history of Lend A Hand. We have gone more places, done more things, and been more helpful to more homeowners than in any prior year.

We found the roles reversed on us! Instead of responding to hosts in affected areas in other parts of the country, we found ourselves being hosts to other groups coming here to be of assistance. The logistics of scheduling, fund raising, publicity, housing and a myriad of other activities were new to us but, fortunately, with a great team of dedicated volunteers and crew chiefs, we were able to meet all challenges in a timely manner.

Our odyssey began in January with our annual college student trip. This year we went to the swamps of Immokalee, Florida, to respond to hurricane damage from prior years. This trip was followed by monthly trips to Tennessee, Iowa, and Mississippi. We ended the year working in our own neighbor's homes following the Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee's dumping of over 26 inches of rain in Central Pa.

Along the way, we hosted an Oakville reunion at a local park, we held two fundraisers at Hoss' restaurants (where 20% of the food purchases were donated to LAH, raising over \$1,200), and we conducted a capital campaign to raise funds to replace our aging 1992 15-passenger van. It was more than coincidental that we needed \$18,507 to purchase the van and we raised \$18,697...miracles do happen!

Through the generosity of many others in the community, we were able to raise \$76,588 (with an additional \$53,000 in grants still pending) to assist in the local flood recovery. We are responding to requests for help in nine counties, an area of over 3,000 square miles.....from Carlisle to Lebanon and from northern Dauphin and Perry counties to the Maryland border.

To meet the demand for help, we purchased three cargo vans and enough tools to fully equip all of them. We, additionally, have the use of a fourth van donated for our use for the duration of this event. We were blessed with 147 new volunteers to add to the list of over 700 'old' volunteers in our database.

Disasters are both 'good news and bad news' events. The bad news is that literally tens of thousands are traumatized by the affects of disasters. The good news is that there are so many who step forward to assist their neighbors in need.

Again this year, we can simply say, **WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF THE LORD!**