

## **DISASTER RESPONSE TRIP NOTES**

Dates: Feb. 22 through March 7, 2009

Location: Near Greenwood, IN

There were 19 volunteers from our church who traveled to a small town, Edinburg, Indiana to share in the rebuilding process after a tornado and an 11 inch rainfall in a short period of time caused major damage.

The following persons shared in our ministry: **Peggy Shaffer, Bill Puffenberger, Ray Powell, Bill Hershey, Luke Muston, Bob Good, Brandon Hollinger, Al Sollenberger, Don Ziegler, Bob Hollinger, George Snavely, Jeff Mummau, Nancy Sheaf, Isabel Eckman, Jerry Becker, Terra Hovan, Ana Hovan, Charles and Elaine Jackson.**

We all thank you for your support and encouragement!!

**Terra Hovan** and **Peggy Shaffer** share their experiences with you:

### **Indiana Here We Are**

As a first time disaster relief volunteer, I wasn't sure how I could help and how I would fit into the group. I did manage to have a private room and my choice of four bunk beds to use. I found my calling in painting and now declare myself "queen of the caulking gun."

The first day the weather was a cold low teens and the men of the group assembled the tools needed for the two houses we were working on Monday and I did the scraping of the windows on the vehicles. We left around 8 am and returned around 4:30 pm. We worked on four homes in total with painting and touch-up work being the focus of two of the homes. When we finished, the places were just about ready for the owners to move back in. After those two homes, the group continued its split as some went to the trailer to join the group working in there – laying flooring, installing cabinets, doing trim and hanging shelves. The other group went to the basement of a home to make some improvements. We worked hard together as we managed around in a small confined trailer and broke for our daily supply of "second day donuts."

It wasn't all work, either, as nightly diversions were found – got to eat a White Castle hamburger which I haven't had since leaving Long Island so many years ago. I even got to play the "woman" role and ask all the questions about the huge mound of corn on the ground outside of an elevator that we passed daily – why uncovered, wouldn't it germinate, etc.

Would I do it again – yes!

**Peggy Shaffer**

On March 1, I joined a group of E-town Brethren to help Indiana flood victims repair their homes with Brethren Disaster Ministries—a new experience for many of us. My major assignment was to paint, paint, paint, and paint—under the watchful guidance of **Jeff Mummau**—and complete other various tasks to finish homes that had been overtaken by water damage. And while we came home with tired feet, aches, pains and speckled clothes, I also came home with a new understanding. Serving others is truly a ministry. The people of Johnson County, Indiana were fascinated by these Brethren people that would come halfway across the country to fix their homes. And we didn't just work—we laughed, listened, shared, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of serving! So with few words, we were able to show others what being Brethren is all about, and share the importance of having God in our lives. I look forward to the next project!

**Terra Hoffer Hovan**