

Kids Helping Kids in the Flood

The floods of June 2008 displaced more than 2000 children in Iowa alone and impacted many more, damaging or destroying their homes, schools, childcare settings, friends' homes, playgrounds and sometimes entire neighborhoods.

Kids Helping Kids in the Flood is a group of children, primarily from the Des Moines area, who want to help those children who have been impacted by the flood. Their mission is to make it possible for children all over Iowa or from around the country to be part of this project, developed and directed by children. Kids Helping Kids will be using email and text messaging to collect donations from children in the Midwest, and elsewhere, who want to be part of this project to help flood-affected children.

Sponsors: To support the Kids Helping Kids effort, Iowa's two children's hospitals--The University of Iowa Children's Hospital in Iowa City and Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines--have come together to provide additional funding and support for the project. Our children's hospitals are a state and national resource. They exist to advance knowledge in the medical care of children, care for the health and well-being of children, train the next generation of health care providers, and reach out to the greater community of children and families, helping to ensure that children in Iowa have an opportunity to live, learn, grow, and develop to their optimum potential.

Supporting Sponsors: the *Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics* (AAP), a nonprofit child advocacy organization of pediatricians and other allied health providers in Iowa, and *Reach Out and Read-Iowa* (ROR-Iowa), an early literacy program of the AAP that strives to advance early literacy by making physician offices and clinics a resource for early literacy, educating parents about the importance of reading in the lives of children, and giving books to young children at well child visits.

One of the projects funded by donations to Kids Helping Kids will be purchase of the book, ***The Flood that Came to Grandma's House***, to give to children in flood-affected areas. This beautiful children's book, by Iowa author Linda Stallone (who has graciously made these books available at cost) has been used extensively by schools and other organizations around the country for children impacted by floods and hurricanes, including hurricane Katrina. It helps children understand how floods occur and what happens during and after a flood, how families and communities are affected, and how they work to rebuild their homes and lives. The book also has a section for the child to write or draw their own story about the flood and how it affected them, making the book an enduring, treasured keepsake.

When families have experienced a natural disaster, danger, or displacement from their homes, children look to their parents and other adults to help them feel loved and protected. Reading aloud to children helps provide them with a sense of security, a predictable routine, parental support, and nurturing care that can help both children and families during this difficult time.

For more information or questions please contact:

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Donations can be sent to:

Kids Helping Kids in the Flood
Reach Out and Read-Iowa, Iowa Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
P.O. Box 1382, Johnston, Iowa 50131

