



PRESS RELEASE
DANI – Disaster Assistance for Northwest Indiana

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DANI to Help with FEMA Applications

Flooding Recovery Group Provides Assistance with March 2009 Floods

Help is available to area residents who had damage from the March 2009 flooding in this area. President Obama's Major Disaster Declaration on Wednesday opens the door to financial assistance for many in Carroll, White, Jasper, Pulaski, and Fulton counties. Disaster Assistance for Northwest Indiana (DANI) will provide case management to help flood survivors identify appropriate help with recovery needs.

To say that it is highly unlikely to have one 500-year flood and two 100-year floods within 14 months will not help many local residents who have found water in their homes again. Many clients who were flooded in 2008 were spared this time by doing mitigation, such as elevating their homes. Others now have flood insurance, which will provide financial help, but does not ease the pain of going through the clean up and recovery processes again.

"It is essential that all flood survivors contact FEMA right away to file a claim for assistance. Many people talked with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security back in March to help with the preliminary damage assessment, but that will not carry over to a FEMA application," stated John Mayfield, DANI's Case Management Supervisor. "In order to have access to all available resources, people need to file for both FEMA assistance and an SBA loan, even if they don't think they will qualify," urged Mayfield.

People can apply for FEMA assistance at <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov> or by calling 1-800-621 FEMA (1-800-621-3362). Those who call the 800 number can receive assistance in English or Spanish. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) seven days a week.

"Fortunately, most of our clients from 2008 did not have to endure new flooding this year. However, we have already been contacted by several new clients who did get water in their homes. This Federal Disaster Declaration will help those folks acquire some of the resources they will need to move toward recovery," according to DANI Director Alan Welch.

Local case management help can be received by leaving a message at 877-773-0249 (toll-free) or sending email to director@daniflood.org. Current information is available at the DANI website, <http://daniflood.org>.

What is DANI?

Disaster Assistance for Northwest Indiana is the long-term recovery agency that is a coalition of more than 30 local faith- and community-based organizations who have joined to help the survivors of the devastating flooding in January and February 2008. DANI's efforts are being focused on Benton, Carroll, Cass, Fulton, Jasper, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, and White Counties. For more information, visit daniflood.org.

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