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April 4, 2007

"Flight of Friendship"-Oregon Volunteers Hands-On in New Orleans

New Orleans, LA - Over a hundred Oregonians, private citizens, business people and lawmakers are in New Orleans this week, as part of the "Flight of Friendship" (hosted by Oregon-based Mercy Corps.) The Governor, Mayor of Portland and many others are putting in some manual labor, and assessing what more they can do for the still-devastated community. Comments from Portland architect Kacey Jurgens and Rick Denhart, with Mercy Corps.

Suggested Script: Over a hundred Oregonians are putting in some hard labor in New Orleans this week as part of the "Flight of Friendship," hosted by the Oregon-based aid group Mercy Corps. Governor Kulongoski and Portland Mayor Tom Potter are among the civic and community leaders planting trees, deconstructing homes and refurbishing community centers. Portland architect Kacey Jurgens says she has family in the area, and she wanted to do more...

Actuality Cut 93%%ID%% (TRT :13) "Much of the community is completely wiped out right now. And there are a lot of small pockets of really courageous people who have stayed in their neighborhoods and are really trying to revitalize them. But, it's really uphill."

Suggested Tag: Volunteers are also meeting with local business leaders and public officials to figure out what more they can do once they're back home. The "Flight of Friendship" participants are being hosted by Mercy Corps' Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery Team.

Alternate Cut: Rick Denhart moved to New Orleans from Portland as part of the Mercy Corps Hurricane Recovery Team to oversee deconstruction projects-which pull all useable materials from destroyed homes and makes it available for local rebuilding at lower prices.

Actuality Cut 94%%ID%% (TRT :11) "This is the first of fifteen homes over the next three to four months that we'll be doing with local contractors and that material going back into the community is really a big asset." (ends)

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite.

Lead: Over a hundred Oregonians are putting in some hard labor in New Orleans this week as part of the "Flight of Friendship." Dondrea Warner has details.

Wrap is Cut 95%%ID%% (TRT :30) "...back home."

Editor's Note: Jurgens and Denhart can be reached through Caitlin Carlson via cell phone at 503-548-8497. More information on the Flight of Friendship is online at www.flightoffriendship.com.

Still available: scripts and sound on the web page, or call toll free # and use the 2 digit cut # followed by %%ID%%

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