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## NEWS RELEASE

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On the days of March 13 – 15, Norfolk experienced historic flood water levels raging through the flood control (levee). Thankfully, our levee held and protected the community but there were still times of uncertainty. Numerous individuals, citizens, and organizations stepped up to the plate and hit a home run with their selfless relief and volunteer efforts during the event. Though there was devastation that came with the historic waters, we could not have had as successful of outcome had it not been for everybody's cooperation.

The Salvation Army, Red Cross, and Orphan Grain Train quickly kicked into gear and prepared to assist those being housed in the shelters and those affected by the flood waters. The staff at Lutheran High Northeast, Bel Air Elementary, and Norfolk Catholic Sacred Heart wasted no time organizing their buildings for the large masses of citizens who would soon be entering the doors. They worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone was safe and their needs were met.

There were also a number of churches that, though undesignated by the City, opened their doors and welcomed citizens into their buildings. First Christian Church was quick to house over 500 college students in their building.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska had no hesitation when they invited donations, food, and volunteers to enter into their building to assist those in need. The group, headed by Craig Risor, worked diligently and selflessly to help during the City's greatest time of need. There were even people on standby to provide transportation to those who needed help evacuating their homes should the levee fail. Restaurants and grocery stores provided free meals and supplies to emergency personnel as well as those in shelters.

Citizens, neighboring businesses, and even people from across the nation were quick to answer the call when it came to gathering the resources needed to help with the flood and shelter efforts. We quickly received donations of equipment for water removal and rescue, as well as mattresses, cots, and food.

Area partners including Northeast Community College, Faith Regional Health Services, the Nebraska State Patrol, and Madison County Sheriff's Office, Nebraska Public Power District, Black Hills Energy, Nebraska Department of Transportation, and others all played vital roles when it came to keeping our community and homes safe.

Finally, our local and national media partners were happy and eager to assist and spread awareness of the serious and violent nature of the disaster. Whenever new news was announced they were quick to report it on

the air, online, and in the paper. They were always the first in the room when press conferences were announced and the last to leave. Their role was critical when it came to providing updates for citizens and helping emergency personnel gather the resources needed to perform rescues and assist those in shelters.

In all the flood waters did impact numerous citizens, but the situation could have been much more devastating than what we experienced. Thanks to our forefathers, all those mentioned above and those who played a behind-the-scenes role, our community remained safe as we endured the storm together. We thank everybody involved for all that they did to lend a hand and help their community.