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PRESS RELEASE

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Rockford Workcamps brings 550 volunteers to Rockford this summer

ROCKFORD - July 13, 2010 – Over 550 volunteers from across the country are coming to the Rockford area this summer to repair 20 residential homes as part of the Rockford Urban Ministries (RUM) Workcamps Program. The work of the eighteen crews will benefit local residents who are unable to complete the work themselves due to poor health, advanced age or severe financial distress.

Since 1999, RUM has facilitated over 260 work crews that have logged more than 40,000 hours of volunteer service for the benefit of the Rockford community. In 2006, RUM entered into a collaboration with the City of Rockford's Human Services Department, helping to repair six homes selected by the Ellis Heights Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration sub-committee.

Last year, the City of Rockford's Community and Economic Development Department partnered with RUM's efforts which served 23 homes in both the Kishwaukee and Ellis Heights Weed and Seed neighborhoods. This year, 20 homes have been selected through the partnership of RUM, the City of Rockford's Human Services Department and the Ellis Heights and Kishwaukee Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Sub-Committees. Since 2006, over 70 homes have been repaired through these collaborative efforts.

The RUM Workcamps program is assisted with funding by the City of Rockford's Human Services Department, Community Services Block Grant-ARRA, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Workcamps crews are responsible for their own transportation, food, and some work materials. Accommodations are donated.

For more information on RUM workcamps information, please contact Stanley Campbell at Rockford Urban Ministries, 815-964-7111 or email at rockfordworkcamps@hotmail.com.

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