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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **Rochester Area Foundation gives \$76,100 to flood relief efforts**

**Rochester, Minn.—Sept. 18, 2007**—Rochester Area Foundation announced today that it will donate a total of \$76,100 to flood relief efforts in Southeastern Minnesota. The gift is a combination of 20 separate donor advised fund grants along with dollars from the Rochester Area Foundation General Fund. The funds are designated for the flood relief efforts of the following organizations: Southeast Minnesota Chapter of the American Red Cross, Rochester Salvation Army, Southeast Minnesota Initiative Foundation’s Business Recovery Fund, Southeast Minnesota Rural Education and Resource Center, and United Way of Olmsted County.

The largest portion of the flood relief dollars will go to the Southeast Minnesota Chapter of the American Red Cross. Rochester Area Foundation will contribute a total of \$50,000, which will be used to replenish the Red Cross’ Disaster Relief Fund. The Disaster Relief Fund allows the Red Cross to immediately provide disaster victims with food, shelter, counseling and other assistance free of charge, without having to wait for donations.

“We estimate it will cost \$2.9 million to provide assistance to those affected by the flooding,” says Southeast Minnesota Chapter Executive Director Melanie Tschida. “Without gifts to replenish the Disaster Relief Fund, our ability to help those in need during the next emergency event in our area will be compromised.”

*-More-*

The remaining \$26,100 in grants will support a variety of assistance efforts for flood victims across the region. “These grants will touch the lives of hundreds of flood victims,” says Rochester Area Foundation Board Chair David Stenhaus. “Several of our donors chose to support a variety of flood relief efforts, which means the impact of their gifts on our region’s recovery will truly be widespread.”

**About Rochester Area Foundation**

Rochester Area Foundation’s mission is to strengthen community philanthropy by promoting responsible and informed giving and to assist donors in meeting their charitable objectives. The Foundation is dedicated to using its resources to improve the quality of life, promote greater equality of opportunities and to develop effective methods to assist those in need in the greater Rochester area. The Rochester Area Foundation makes grants in the fields of arts and culture, community development, education, human services and recreation. Learn more at [www.rochesterarea.org](http://www.rochesterarea.org).

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