



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Michael Morris, Director
Office: 612-866-5112
Mobile: 612-490-5848

NECHAMA CONDUCTS FLOOD RELIEF IN SHELL LAKE, WI

Minneapolis, MN – Thirty five Nechama volunteers were in Shell Lake last Sunday to help residents battle the rising and wind blown waters of Shell Lake in northwestern Wisconsin. Due to heavy rains, the lake has risen to an all-time high, flooding at least 50 shoreline homes and endangering upwards to 100 more. Upon touring the area, Nechama representatives determined that many people were in immediate danger of losing their homes unless sandbag dikes were built and existing dikes were raised and reinforced. *Using its specialized ‘Gobagger’ scoops, Nechama volunteers were able to fill about 3,000 sandbags, transport the bags to area residents and put up protective walls to hold back the water.*

Shell Lake Mayor Larry Fletcher, who worked with the volunteers, praised their work as being, “the biggest outside effort we’ve seen come to our town since the problem began”. He said, *“These volunteers accomplished more in one day than the residents have been able to do in weeks”*. Police Chief Clint Stariah who helped organize the sandbagging assignments said, “We are just so happy that people from outside Shell Lake have taken an interest in our plight. The Nechama group came in and had a tremendous level of enthusiasm and expertise in dealing with flooding and sandbagging. They were very organized and knew just how to handle the situation. We are happy to continue having these folks to help us.”

Leading the sandbagging team was the Temple Israel Men’s Club from Minneapolis. Club organizer Steve Rothberg, recruited 18 volunteers and other family members to join in the effort. Steve said that the Nechama work was a very positive experience for the volunteers, a great experience, and part of Temple’s mission of Jewish community service. He said, “Temple Israel will continue to work with Nechama on supplying volunteers and going on these kinds of deployments.”

The next sandbag and cleanup deployment will be Sunday, June 22 sponsored by Beth El Synagogue. Anyone interested in participating should contact Nechama at 612-866-5112 or register to be a volunteer at www.nechama.org.

Nechama is a Minneapolis based non-profit volunteer agency that helps families and business begin cleaning up and recovering from natural disasters. It operates to assist disaster victims, do community service, promote volunteerism and establish goodwill on the part of the Twin Cities Jewish community.

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VISIT US ONLINE: www.nechama.org
PH 763.732.0610 Info@nechama.org
4330 SOUTH CEDAR LAKE ROAD
ST LOUIS PARK, MINNESOTA 55416
INFORMATION HOTLINE 612.334.7070