

## San Jose Flood Relief Volunteer Efforts

During the past two weeks, there has been a tremendous outpouring of support from volunteers to help residents affected by the by the Coyote Creek floods of February 20<sup>th</sup> that resulted from an overflow of the Anderson Dam. Over four thousand volunteers have come forward to aid residents affected in the Roosevelt, Rock Springs and Old Oakland Road neighborhoods, and to work in parks that were affected by this event. Volunteers have helped in a variety of ways to assist with relief and recovery after the floods at 19 locations to date throughout the city.

Activities include:

- Over one thousand volunteers helped sort through and remove damaged belongings, clear debris and shovel mud to help residents get back into their homes in the Roosevelt, Rock Springs and Old Oakland Road communities
- Volunteers provided canvassing and notification to neighborhoods regarding services and information to assist residents with relief and recovery
- Volunteers served as interpreters at the local assistance center (LAC), at field sites and late into the evening at the shelter locations, and continue to do so on a daily basis
- Over the past weekend, over 500 volunteers helped to clean up Kelley Park, removing debris and litter, de-greasing equipment, cleaning cages and scrubbing down parks equipment
- Volunteers have recently helped distribute clothing and linens to residents as they are returning to their homes

Volunteers came out as individuals, families, community-based organizations and company teams and provided emotional support to residents in addition to the tremendous amount of clean-up work accomplished. Volunteers were astonished at the difference they could make to even a single family or household and they continue to want to help. Many residents used the term “angels” to describe the impact the volunteers had on them during such a difficult time in their lives

Relief efforts continue and upcoming volunteer activities include but are not limited to:

- Saturday, March 11 – Coyote Creek Clean-Up Days for Olinder and Kelly Parks
- Saturday, March 11 – Olinder Park Clean-Up
- Sunday, March 12 – Donation Drive and Distribution and Olinder Elementary School
- Saturday, March 18 – Kelley Park Clean-up
- Ongoing - individual assistance with debris removal at residences (without mold)

Volunteer opportunities are being identified and posted on an ongoing basis on a new website developed by the city to provide a centralized platform which allows volunteers to register and also enables the city and community-based organizations to post volunteer opportunities. The website is located at: [helpindisaster.com/sanjose](http://helpindisaster.com/sanjose).