



For Immediate Release

Tanya Glanville-Wallis
Director of Public Relations
O: (+1)508.758.8211
tanya.gw@hands.org

All Hands Volunteers Nonprofit Receives Grant for Nepal Earthquake Recovery

U.S. - based disaster relief and recovery organization makes international impact

February 10, 2016 – Mattapoisett, MA – The Center for Disaster Philanthropy has awarded *All Hands Volunteers* a \$100,000 grant to continue rebuilding schools in the Nuwakot district of Nepal after a devastating earthquake hit the country last April. The grant will help fund *All Hands Volunteers'* effort to get over 1,600 children back in the classroom after nearly 90 percent of the region's schools were destroyed in the earthquake. *All Hands* CEO Erik Dyson says, "The funds will ensure that our important work of tackling the long term needs of communities struck by natural disasters will continue in Nepal. *All Hands Volunteers* were on the ground two days after the quake hit and have been there since, helping the affected communities recover with more than 780 volunteers. This grant will fund construction of five additional schools, giving traumatized children a safe and clean place to learn."



"Too often after a disaster like the Nepal earthquake, there is a flood of support in the immediate aftermath and very little funding available for mid- and long-term recovery," said Bob Ottenhoff, President of the Center for Disaster Philanthropy. "We created the CDP Nepal Earthquake Recovery Fund to help donors collaborate in funding efforts that will help Nepal fully rebuild from this disaster. And we wanted to support initiatives to address needs that are often overlooked in disaster recovery."

Rehabilitating school infrastructure is instrumental to the country's long-term recovery, with schools dominating Nepal's communities. *All Hands* is now partnered with *Room to Read*, a global nonprofit that for nearly two decades has tackled educational challenges across the school systems of underdeveloped countries, with a special emphasis on Nepal.

While *Room to Read* brings profound knowledge of the sector, *All Hands* brings the manpower and capacity to creatively deliver high quality construction projects, utilizing experienced professional



ALL HANDS VOLUNTEERS

project managers bolstered by a network of thousands of multi-skilled volunteers from all over the world.

All Hands Volunteers is a unique disaster response and recovery organization that supports and manages volunteers across the globe after natural disasters occur in the U.S and abroad. The nonprofit organization brings manpower and expertise, embedding volunteers in communities that suffer great loss and need help in a myriad of ways to recover. *All Hands* covers the cost of food and shelter for the volunteers, and provides leadership and project management. The organization is unusual in that it accepts spontaneous and unaffiliated volunteers of all backgrounds, allowing those willing to give their time to make a difference. Philanthropic leaders say the organization is known for being nimble, collaborative, and professional in its response to the immediate and long term needs of those suffering in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Many relief organizations work in a community for only a few days following a disaster, whereas *All Hands* is on the ground for weeks, months and sometimes even years. The organization's model is to stay until local resources are sufficient to rebuild the community to its original status.

All Hands CEO Erik Dyson says fundraising is critical to enable the organization to achieve its mission: "When communities are impacted by the level of destruction that occurred in Nepal, it is difficult for anyone to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We ensure that those who want to help *can* help. We are thankful for the volunteers who put their lives on hold to assist those in need —but without the continued financial backing of individual donors, foundations and corporate partners, none of our work would be possible."

Those who want to support *All Hands Volunteers'* efforts in Nepal can make a donation at www.hands.org/donate

For further information on *All Hands Volunteers'* response to the Nepal earthquake visit <http://hands.org/projects/nepal-earthquake-rebuild/>

For further information on the CDP Nepal Earthquake Recovery Fund visit www.disasterphilanthropy.org

For further information on *Room to Read* visit <http://www.roomtoread.org>

Interviews available upon request.

Photos available.

#####