Welcome & Introductions
Attendance is included in attached sheet

Prior Call/Meeting Minutes Review Approval
Minutes weren’t available from the prior call or meeting, call minutes were e-mailed to the group following the call and no corrections were submitted.

Financial Report
Bert reported a balance of $54.75

Disaster Updates
North Central Indiana Flooding update (Spring 2012) - Bob LaGrange - About to finish up IDHS and State Disaster Fund operations. An application came in last week, so there is one more to do. There were a total of 188 applications with a total assistance amount around $880,000 for and individual average a little over of $4700 each.

Agency/Organizations Updates
• Agencies
  o FEMA – Chris offered that the FEMA workers we commonly work with are currently furloughed due to the federal shutdown. E-mail sent to them generates an out of office reply stating such and provides emergency contact information for FEMA.
  o IDHS
    ▪ Bob went to FEMA workshop. When the next disaster occurs we'll be able to go into FEMA’s files regarding assistance recipients, designate what agencies need to get the files and the information should flow more quickly. Shouldn't have a problem getting information as has been experienced in the past. In the past the FEMA Customer Service Representatives were housed under the Public Information area. They have moved to the Individual Assistance area and will be using a system more like a FEMA Corps to work with people.
    ▪ Larry offered that based on the Consumer Index the FEMA max grant amount went from $31.9K to $32.4K on October 1.
    ▪ Larry presented that FEMA seems to be moving toward larger catastrophic response and away from more common disasters. With that they would like to put together a database of Indiana VOAD partners that shows contact information and what resources each organization has to offer. This will assist them in matching requests with resources as they work with citizens during none declared disasters. They have requested each member complete an information sheet and return to them. The information will be shared with Indiana VOAD as well. The sheet in attached to the minutes.
• **Member Organizations**
  
  o  **Feeding Indiana’s Hungry, Inc.** – Emily Weikert Bryant
    - November SNAP changes. Emily presented on the reduction in benefits for SNAP recipients starting November 1. This reduction is the result of the end of money made available under parts of the stimulus program. Handout and flyers related to this are attached to the minutes.
    - Emily provided an overview on what's being affected food wise by the federal shutdown.
  
  o  **Convoy of Hope** – Carol Lamb is out in Colorado doing disaster relief ministry
  
  o  **Tri State CART**
    - Bonnie Morrison, Tri State CART Executive Director, has started a new job as Shelter Director for the Clermont County Animal Shelter. As such she might not be available of our regular calls or meetings but is still to help with any animal needs
    - Had a successful Strut Your Mutt's Paws By The River 9/14/13 event. Scheduled for 9/14/14, save the date.
  
  o  **Salvation Army** – Bert Williams – They are in a holding pattern for grant to get a couple more canteens and gator.
  
  o  **United Methodist Church** – Jim Byerly – Continuing to work in Kokomo following the spring flooding.
  
  o  **MDS** – Mel Swartzentruber – The organization is still working on rebuilding in the northeast following Hurricane Sandy.
  
  o  **Feed the Childen John Tracy** – It’s pretty quiet in disaster relief right now. Busy in OK where HQ is. Shut down is impacting service.
  
  o  **Helping His Hands** – Scott Shipman – Scott presented information on Helping His Hands to be considered for membership in Indiana VOAD. Scott has been a volunteer fire fighter and having a group like Helping His Hands has been a 20 year itch. When hurricane Katrina hit they "upped the ante" so to say. Helping His Hands isn’t there to set up their own thing and don’t want to reinvent the wheel. They do want to work with other organizations to help with response and recovery/rebuilding. Typically each worker pays his/her own way so partnering with local groups for housing and other things is important. They do pay a crew leader and do some fundraising to support that. Waiting on 501c3 status but have a fiscal agent that is a 501c3 until then. Volunteers come from students at Vincennes University and some of those students have graduated and now have gone out to their own churches and helping to bring in volunteers. Jane said Scott has always tried to provide whatever help he can. A Helping His Hands crew is actually working with M2R starting the day following the Indiana VOAD meeting.
    (a vote for membership was held in the business section of the meeting)
  
  o  **Catholic Charities** – Jane Crady – A small grant has been added to barn grant. Through the grant work they have complete 24 barns and will start number 25 next week. Whatever money is left will be used for repair on some farms.
  
  o  **IN – KY Conf United Church of Christ** - Mary Anna Speller- Introduced Carol Patterson with IN – KY Conf United Church of Christ. Carol will be helping with meeting and call coverage when Mary Anna isn't available.

• **COADs**

  o  **TriState COAD** - Hosting the 2013 Ohio VOAD Fall Conference at the Cincinnati Red Cross office on November 13. Speaker and registration information can be found on their website at [https://ohvoad.communityos.org/cms/node/231](https://ohvoad.communityos.org/cms/node/231). They've also received a grant to develop a website.
  
  o  **Monroe County COAD** - Elden attended last meeting. A person from the EMA attended and presented.
  
  o  **Attended Owen County COAD** – Elden also attended the Owen County COAD meeting and is
becoming a member. Spoke with them a little bit during that meeting.

- Steve, Abby and Jane have split state into three areas to get COADs up and running and on track.
- SWIN COAD - started May or June. Nov 18 meeting if anyone is down in the area. Last meeting 22 or 23 partners.
- Presented on COAD funding request to ISDH.

**Long Term Recovery Updates**

**March 2012 Tornadoes**

Friends Disaster – Eldon Studer – Eldon has led groups back to Henryville twice recently to work with VROC. Eldon said that effort is pretty much finished up except for one house.

March2Recovery - Jennifer Mills-Knutsen, Chair, presented a letter outlining current progress of the M2R effort and that they have completed 27 homes. Not everyone will be in by Christmas but many will. She also shared concerns over difficulties experienced with Kevin Cox and Hope Crisis Response Network over the recovery period. That information is contained in the letter from M2R that was handed out and is attached to the minutes. Jennifer requested that the Indiana VOAD leadership take steps to insure that future difficulties, such those expressed in the rebuttal, aren’t experienced by others during future disasters.

**Indiana VOAD Business**

- **Annual VOAD Conference - May 2014**
  - Call for proposals should be out next week. Posted on the National VOAD site.
  - Exhibitor’s information will be available next week.
  - January is the next stage where they will decide on proposals.
  - Service Project:
    - Abby suggested a Pet go kit. Give it to an animal shelter and a person who adopts a pet gets a free kit. It will also have information about a human to go kit. Reasoning: about 10 times less expensive. We have an animal shelter and partners to work with. Easier to do than a human to go kit. There was very good support for this and no objection, so we are moving forward with this idea.
    - Larry has contacted Ed Rock (Kosciusko county EMA director) about singing the National Anthem and he agreed. Larry also mentioned that Board of Animal Health and Nature’s way might help us with the pet to go kits.
      - We confirmed that Chris & Lucinda will talk to the governor and mayor.
  - Helping His Hands (handout attached to agenda)
    - A motion to take a vote to accept Helping His Hands as an Indiana VOAD member was presented by Jane Crady and seconded by Emily Weikert Bryant. Over a majority of those present voted in favor of the motion with no one being opposed. Helping His Hands is now a member of the Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

**Educational Moment / Program**

- **5-minute video about 2-1-1 services**
  A short video was show about 2-1-1 services. The video 5 minute video and a 30 second video are available here: [http://www.unitedway.org/pages/2-1-1-promo-videos](http://www.unitedway.org/pages/2-1-1-promo-videos)

- **American Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services Update**
  Joe Wainscott presented on changed taking place in the Red Cross with the Disaster Cycle Reengineering project.

**Other Business**
No other business was presented.

**Next Call/Meeting**

- Call: Wednesday November 13, 4:00 – 5:00 PM EDT (odd months, 2\textsuperscript{nd} Wednesday)
- Meeting: Thursday December 12, 1:00 – 3:00 PM EDT (even months, 2\textsuperscript{nd} Thursday)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization / Agency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Tracy</td>
<td>Feed The Children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Shipman</td>
<td>Helping His Honds Disaster Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Byerly</td>
<td>IN United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>Mary Jones</td>
<td>UWO</td>
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<td>Clln Behne</td>
<td>Red Cross - Louisville</td>
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<td>Joe Winner Jr.</td>
<td>Red Cross</td>
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<td>Jeff Anderson</td>
<td>Globus</td>
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<td>Mary Anne Speller</td>
<td>IN KY Conf United Church of Christ</td>
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<td>Larry Cassagne</td>
<td>Lassagne IDHS</td>
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<td>Tony Beanzio</td>
<td>IN Central United Methodist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marla Swartzentuber</td>
<td>MBE <a href="mailto:ms.wartzm@att.net">ms.wartzm@att.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bert Williams</td>
<td>SALVATION ARMY</td>
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<td>Barry O' Day</td>
<td>N2R / LERT</td>
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<td>Cora Longin</td>
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<td>Jennifer Mulsensen</td>
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<td>Robert Leeney</td>
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<td>George Moaz</td>
<td>RED CROSS</td>
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<td>Eldon Studer</td>
<td>St. D. S.</td>
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<td>Jane Cady</td>
<td>Catholic Charities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Patterson</td>
<td>IN KY Cof. of UCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Bryant</td>
<td>Feeding Indiana's Hungry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Summers</td>
<td>ARC</td>
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</table>
Key Messages

- On August 1, USDA released the June 2013 average costs for their four official food plans, including the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), a minimal cost nutritious diet. Maximum allotments under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are based on the TFP.

- In order to reflect changes in food prices over time, the Food and Nutrition Act requires that SNAP benefits be adjusted according to the cost of the June TFP each year. The adjustments are effective October 1 of each year.

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) raised SNAP maximum allotments by 13.6 percent of the June 2008 value of the TFP, providing needed relief to individuals and families impacted by the economic downturn. The maximum benefit for a family of four based on the June 2013 TFP under ARRA is $668.

- The ARRA adjustment is currently scheduled to sunset effective November 1, 2013. As a result, SNAP households will see a decrease in their SNAP benefit amounts at that time. While the November 1 decrease will affect all households, every case is different. The amount of a household’s SNAP benefit depends on many things like income, household size, and expenses.

- For example, a family of four receiving the maximum allotment will see a reduction in their SNAP allotment from $668 to $632, a decrease of $36. We also anticipate that households residing in the 48 States and DC who are eligible to receive the minimum allotment will see a decrease in benefits from $16 to $15.

- The President’s 2014 budget request proposes to extend the ARRA adjustment to March 2014. Congress has not yet acted to approve the President’s Budget. As a result, USDA is providing the necessary information for States to make the required adjustments effective November 2013 based on current law.

- States have been advised by memo of maximum allotments for various household sizes for October 2013 with the ARRA increase, and for November going forward without the ARRA adjustment. They will use this information to make appropriate annual adjustments to SNAP benefits.

• USDA and its partners are working to improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables for low-income families. More than 3,800 farmers markets and farm stands are now authorized to accept payment through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), an increase of over 100 percent since 2010.
SNAP Recipients Will See Decreased Benefits in November as ARRA Increases End

On November 1, 2013, recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will see their benefits decrease.

In April 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commonly known as the stimulus package, raised SNAP benefits to help people affected by the recession. During the difficult economic downturn, as more and more hard-working individuals and families faced hard choices between purchasing groceries or paying bills, SNAP helped reduce food insecurity and prevented many people from slipping even deeper into poverty.

SNAP recipients can expect two changes in their benefit amounts during the fall of 2013. First, benefits will increase slightly for most households on October 1 to reflect the costs of living. This is one of a set of adjustments that happens every year at this time. Then, most families will see their benefits decrease on November 1 due the end of the extra benefits provided by ARRA.

For example, if there were no other changes to their case, a family of four with no income would likely see their monthly benefits decrease by about $36 on November 1, 2013 (see table below). While the November 1 decrease will affect all households, every case is different. The amount of a household’s SNAP benefit depends on many things like income, household size, and expenses.

### SNAP Maximum Monthly Benefit Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>October 1, 2013</th>
<th>November 1, 2013</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$189</td>
<td>-$11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$367</td>
<td>$347</td>
<td>-$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$526</td>
<td>$497</td>
<td>-$29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$668</td>
<td>$632</td>
<td>-$36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$793</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>-$43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$952</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>-$52</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$1,052</td>
<td>$995</td>
<td>-$57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$1,202</td>
<td>$1,137</td>
<td>-$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional person</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$142</td>
<td>-$8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unexpected day-to-day circumstances can put any family in vulnerable, often unforeseen situations. Despite this decrease in benefits, SNAP continues to be a resource to those who need extra help with the food budget during these tough times.

USDA provides several resources to help people eat healthy meals on a low budget including:

- **10-Tips Nutrition Series** ([http://www.choosemyplate.gov/healthy-eating-tips/ten-tips.html](http://www.choosemyplate.gov/healthy-eating-tips/ten-tips.html))
- **ChooseMyPlate.gov** ([http://www.choosemyplate.gov/](http://www.choosemyplate.gov/))


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Your SNAP Benefits Are Changing

Why are my benefits changing?
Your benefits are changing for two reasons. First, your benefits are changing due to the cost of living. These changes happen every year. Second, your benefits are changing because increased benefits provided a law called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) raised SNAP are expected to expire on November 1, 2013.

When are my benefits changing?
On October 1, your benefits may go up a little bit due to changes in the cost of living. On November 1, your benefits will go down due to the end of the extra benefits provided by the 2009 law.

How much are my benefits going down on November 1?
Your benefits depend on many things like income, household size and expenses. So it is hard to say exactly how your benefits will change. But if you live in a household of 4 and nothing else changes, your benefit would go down about $36.

How can I eat healthy on a low budget?
Here are some places you can find tips to help you prepare healthy meals on a low budget:

- 10-Tips Nutrition Series (http://www.choosemyplate.gov/healthy-eating-tips/ten-tips.html)
- ChooseMyPlate.gov (http://www.choosemyplate.gov/)
- Plan, Compare and Prepare (http://blogs.usda.gov/2013/03/28/healthy-eating-on-a-budget/)
- Eat Right When Money’s Tight. (http://snap.nal.usda.gov/resource-library/eat-right-when-moneys-tight)

The USDA Recipe Box (http://www.fns.usda.gov/fnncs-recipe-box) helps you find healthy low cost recipes and create cookbooks and shopping lists. Use it to search for recipes based on total cost or cost per serving.

What should I do if I need food right away?
Call 2-1-1 and ask for the nearest food pantry or food distribution site, or contact your regional food bank (http://feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx, see zip code search at top) and ask for the nearest food distribution site.
SNAP COLA and ARRA Sunset
Questions and Answers
Recipient Focused

Questions and Answers

Are cost of living adjustments (COLAs) done every year?
Yes, these cost of living adjustments happen every year. The maximum benefit is adjusted every year. Other adjustments include updates to the standard deduction, shelter deduction, income tests (gross and net), and D-SNAP allotment. By law, States must make these SNAP adjustments each October 1.

What is the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)?
The ARRA is also known as the stimulus package. It became law in 2009 in order to foster economic activity in response to the recession.

How did ARRA affect SNAP?
ARRA increased the maximum SNAP allotment to provide larger benefit amounts to clients. This increase in benefits is expected to end on November 1, 2013.

When will the changes from ARRA go into effect?
SNAP benefits are scheduled to go down starting on November 1.

How much will my benefits change on November 1, 2013?
Your benefits depend on many things—income, household size and expenses. So it is hard to say how your benefits will change. But if you live in a household of 4 and nothing else changes, your benefit would go down about $36.

How will I be notified of a change in my benefits?
You will be notified about changes to your benefits by your State, most likely via letter in the mail. You may also hear about these changes via the news, posters in local offices, or from retailers where you shop with your SNAP benefits.

How do I check the balance for my SNAP benefits to know how much I have?
To find out your SNAP balance you can look at your last grocery receipt, check the balance online at https://www.ebtaccount.jpmorgan.com/, or call Indiana’s EBT customer service line at 1-877-768-5098.

How can I figure out how to feed my family healthful foods on a lower budget?
USDA provides several resources to help you prepare healthy meals on a low budget:

- 10-Tips Nutrition Series (http://www.choosemyplate.gov/healthy-eating-tips/ten-tips.html)
- ChooseMyPlate.gov (http://www.choosemyplate.gov/)
- Plan, Compare and Prepare (http://blogs.usda.gov/2013/03/28/healthy-eating-on-a-budget/)
- Eat Right When Money’s Tight. (http://snap.nal.usda.gov/resource-library/eat-right-when-moneys-tight)
The Recipe Box (http://www.fns.usda.gov/fncs-recipe-box) helps you find healthy low cost recipes and create cookbooks and shopping lists.

**What should I do if I need food right away?**

If you need food right away, call 2-1-1 and ask for the nearest food pantry or food distribution site, or contact your regional food bank (http://feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx, see zip code search at top) and ask for the nearest food distribution site.
Clients:

Your SNAP benefits are changing. On October 1, your SNAP benefit may go up slightly due to the cost of living. On November 1, your SNAP benefits will go down because extra benefits provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, sometime called the stimulus, will end.

You will be notified about changes to your benefits by your State, most likely via letter in the mail.

To find out your SNAP balance you can look at your last grocery receipt, check the balance online at https://www.ebtaccount.jpmorgan.com/, or call Indiana’s EBT customer service line at 1-877-768-5098.

If you need food right away, call 2-1-1 and ask for the nearest food pantry or food distribution site, or contact your regional food bank (http://feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx, see zip code search at top) and ask for the nearest food distribution site.

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October 10, 2013

Dear Indiana VOAD Members,

We are pleased to report that the recovery efforts from the March 2, 2012 tornadoes are progressing well. We hope to have the last family home by the first of the year, and complete March2Recovery operations well before the second anniversary of the tornadoes.

We have learned how important the VOAD 4 C’s are in this endeavor—Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration among community partners have been essential to our successful recovery efforts. We were honored to receive the Governor’s Community of Service Award from the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the highest honor for volunteerism in Indiana.

It is with that commitment to partnership that we share our concern about an INVOAD member who has shown a pattern of disrespectful and dishonest behavior toward March2Recovery, undermining the mission and credibility of INVOAD in the process.

Kevin Cox and Hope Crisis Response Network separated from March2Recovery in the early months of the recovery due to differences of opinion. They helped institute a separate recovery group, operating as Volunteers ROC or VROC. Since then, they have openly refused to honor the 4 C’s by Cooperating, Communicating, Coordinating or Collaborating with March2Recovery, which has caused confusion, delays and frustration for the survivors we are trying to serve.

March2Recovery decided over a year ago that we would not respond in kind with accusations and manipulation, but go about our work faithfully to serve survivors effectively. However, Mr. Cox has now publicly targeted March2Recovery in his organization’s fundraising messages, disparaging our work and damaging our reputation with untruths. He is doing so while claiming to speak as a representative of INVOAD, in effect using INVOAD’s name to malign other INVOAD members who are active in March2Recovery.

The HCRN/VROC e-mail from October 4 claims:

Steve Cain and I were asked to oversee Volunteer Services on behalf of the Indiana VOAD and the State of Indiana. ... A long-term recovery group was established, however; it wasn’t long after, it became clear that there were opportunist trying to ramrod and take control of the Recovery and Faith-Based agencies were sidelined.

March2Recovery has always been modeled on VOAD’s 4 C’s, and it emerged directly from the local SINCOAD, not the United Way. We experienced typical early growing pains, but most partners, faith-based and otherwise, stuck with the process to ensure long term recovery worked. None of the agencies involved in March2Recovery have received any compensation or grant money for their participation, or the participation of their staff. This includes Metro United Way, our fiscal agent, which has dedicated a huge amount of resources and staff time to the recovery effort. There is nothing “opportunist” in this endeavor.

www.March2Recovery.org

The mission of March2Recovery is to provide disaster recovery services to individuals and families affected by the March 2, 2012 tornadoes in Southern Indiana.
We have always included many faith-based agencies, including Catholic Charities, the United Church of Christ, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), Adventist Community Services, Sharing Hope Ministries, Mennonite Disaster Services, Presbyterians, and many local congregations and clergy from all faiths. We are proud of the work our Spiritual and Emotional Recovery Team has done to provide community events and individual care appropriate to people of all faiths and people of no faith. This team is a model to other long term recovery groups.

The e-mail also claims:

As an additional note: We are proud to report that VROC did not partner with nor request funds from the IND Fund or from March2Recovery, the long term recovery group established by United Way.

This is simply untrue. While VROC did not directly receive funds from March2Recovery, we partnered with their funder Hoosier Uplands on several homes. Many of their referrals came from March2Recovery. Our case managers worked with the same families, and our monies, including those from the Indiana Natural Disaster Fund, paid for many things associated with VROC/Hoosier Upland homes. Of the 17 rebuilds handled by VROC, eight had a significant financial contribution from March2Recovery, ranging from $14,000 to $1,000 and totaling almost $47,000. Our case managers handled paperwork and support for 11 of the 17 rebuilds completed by VROC, in addition to four mobile home replacements. To claim that VROC accomplished all its work without assistance or funding from March2Recovery or the IND Fund is untrue.

Similar inappropriate behavior by Kevin Cox, HCRN and VROC has been going on for more than 15 months, causing damage to March2Recovery and all the partner agencies in our communities. While we have carefully documented various incidents, we decided to avoid taking action because it was not in the best interest of our clients or the recovery efforts. However, at this point, the lies have been shared publicly and in a widely distributed newsletter, and we must correct the misinformation. We can share the additional documentation at your request, but we believe the content of this letter is sufficient to merit action by INVOAD.

We regret that the situation has come to this, but we hope that action by INVOAD now will prevent future long-term recovery groups in Indiana from facing the same undermining behavior and preserve the meaningful Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration that VOAD represents.

It has been our honor to serve with March2Recovery in this recovery effort. While we hope to never encounter another disaster of this magnitude, we want to be prepared to work together effectively in the future.

Faithfully,

Rev. Jennifer Mills-Knutsen, Chair
On behalf of the Steering Committee of March2Recovery

www.March2Recovery.org

The mission of March2Recovery is to provide disaster recovery services to individuals and families affected by the March 2, 2012 tornadoes in Southern Indiana.