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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All Hands Launches Typhoon Response Project in the Philippines

January 5, 2012 – Cagayan de Oro, Philippines – On December 16, 2011 Mindanao was hit by Typhoon Washi (locally known as “Sendong”); heavy rains caused flash flooding which killed 1,033 people and 1,015 are still missing. More than 30,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged. All Hands Volunteers is responding with Project de Oro, opening the door for volunteers to provide meaningful help on the ground.

“The damage here from flash flooding is extensive and severe” said Marc Young, Director of Assessments for All Hands. “After conducting our ocular inspection we are confident a volunteer based project will provide a substantial amount of help for the survivors.”

While programs are still in the planning phase, All Hands’ initial assessment is suggesting two needed activities: clearing mud and debris, and building permanent shelters. The All Hands model has proven highly effective in mud and debris removal with previous experience responding to flash floods in Gonaives, Haiti in 2008 and most recently clearing debris in the wake of the 2011 Japan Tsunami. All Hands is uniquely positioned to offer timely effective assistance for survivors.

All Hands is also considering joint operations with other international partners currently providing help in Cagayan de Oro. “We have proven we can increase the impact of both organizations when working together,” said Chris Turner, Project Director for All Hands.

The joint effort of Habitat for Humanity Japan and All Hands created a force multiplier effect in response to the tsunami there in 2011.

For more information on Project Cagayan De Oro, visit <http://www.hands.org/projects/projectcdo>.

About All Hands Volunteers – All Hands Volunteers is a US-based, 501(c)3 non-profit organization, that provides hands-on assistance to survivors of natural disasters around the world, with maximum impact and minimum bureaucracy. By supporting volunteers with housing, meals, tools, and organized work at no charge we are able to provide free and effective response services to communities in need. Our programs are directed by the needs of each community in which we work, ensuring a timely, relevant, and culturally sensitive response. For more information including a list of past and present projects go to <http://www.hands.org>.