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LOUISIANA PRESS ADVISORY

FLOOD PROOF PROJECT UNLOCKS NEARLY \$5M IN ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR DISASTER SURVIVORS

BATON ROUGE (December 1, 2017) – Approximately fifteen months after the devastating August 2016 flood, Louisiana Appleseed, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS), and “Flood Proof” project partners are pleased to announce that a total of 310 disaster impacted homeowners have received help through the Flood Proof Project resulting in \$4,800,000 in flood recovery funding or other economic benefits. While achieving this benchmark has not been easy, the hard work and diligence of staff attorneys, volunteers, community stakeholders, and funders has paid off. And the Flood Proof partners are not done yet.

Flood Proof has aided families in the Capital Area with: navigating the legal process to obtain proof of ownership, engaging and educating the public on “heir property”, and advocating with policy makers for improved disaster procedures. “Vital resources that were once gridlocked are now available to people rebuilding their lives and shaping their futures”, explained Christy Kane, Executive Director of Louisiana Appleseed. The project specifically provides free legal services to eligible homeowners living in East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and Livingston parishes whose homes were flooded. Support for the project is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Equal Justice Works, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, and the Louisiana Bar Foundation. Project partners include SLLS, Louisiana Appleseed, Southern University Law Center, the Baton Rouge Bar Association, the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, and the American Bar Association (ABA) Center for Innovation.

“Due to the generous support of these funders, Flood Proof will continue to provide assistance to residents through April 2018” informed Laura Tuggle, Executive Director of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services. Families who need free legal help to prove ownership of their homes to help them recover from the flood can call 1-844-244-7871, visit us online at www.floodproofla.org, or download the “Flood Proof” app on Android and Apple phones. A video made possible by the ABA Standing Committee on Disaster Response and Preparedness explaining the app and how we are making a difference in the lives of survivors, is available at <https://vimeo.com/226507610/6ea3ec8103>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Louisiana Appleseed recruits professionals to donate pro bono time to solve problems at their root cause. Our goal is to advance social justice by effecting change at the policy, or systemic, level. Louisiana Appleseed's projects seek to increase access to education, opportunity and justice. Since 2007, Louisiana Appleseed has worked with volunteer attorneys, lawmakers and community groups to address the heir property issue head-on, working to solve the problem at the systemic, or policy, level. Louisiana Appleseed recently became part of a collaborative with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Southern University Law Center, LSU Law Center and the Baton Rouge Bar Association to further policy-related efforts, as well as direct services for heir property owners. For more information, visit www.FloodProofLa.org or call 1-844-244-7871.