Dear Neighborhood Representative:

Now that the immediate danger resulting from our recent wind storm and flood disasters has subsided, we must focus our attention on disaster recovery assistance to the citizens of Ames.

I am attaching a summary of the recovery initiatives that were announced this morning. You can help this critical effort by sharing this attached information with your neighbors.

There are five important messages that we hope you can convey to your neighbors.

As we emphasized this morning, the cornerstone of our disaster recovery efforts should be Neighbor to Neighbor outreach to assist with clean up assistance.

If this is not possible, we need to know which of your neighbors with special needs require help with clean up for their residences. Those special needs are defined on the attached summary. Those individuals should call RSVP at 239-5678 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for assistance.

We are still in need of volunteers and supplies to accomplish the cleanup in these private homes. Any of your neighbors who are willing to offer this type of assistance should also call RSVP during the times listed above.

With Saturday's national disaster declaration, many of our businesses, homes, and apartments have become eligible for federal financial assistance. Anyone who experienced damage from the recent flooding, flash floods or wind storm should contact FEMA by the Internet at www.DisasterAssitance.gov or by phone at 1-800-621-3362 to apply for federal financial assistance.

There also will be a tremendous need for individual financial assistance. Local contributions are being coordinated by United Way of Story County through their "Story County Cares Fund."

If you have any questions about these initiatives, please call the City Manager's Office at 239-5101.

We all need to remember that just because the winds have died down and the waters have receded, the need for community assistance has not diminished. We still need your help in getting this word out quickly to those who need help or can help.

Thank you!Ann H. Campbell Mayor