



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 A.M. CST, January 17, 2014

LIBRARIES AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TEAM UP TO PROVIDE PHOTO PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICES TO DISASTER VICTIMS

EAST PEORIA, IL, JANUARY 17, 2014: Central Illinois residents affected by disaster will have four opportunities to have photos, scrapbooks, and other flat mementos and documents digitally preserved, and in some cases, restored. Following family and pets, photos, scrapbooks, and mementos are often cherished above all else, especially as the memories they capture may be all that remain after a natural disaster. Digital copies can help in the preservation, restoration, and reproduction processes, especially before further decay occurs.

Coordinated by Fondulac District Library of East Peoria through its "Saving Memories" project, three organizations – Washington District Library, Fondulac District Library, and Operation Photo Rescue - have collaborated to bring free digital preservation and restoration services to disaster victims from any central Illinois community.

The first digitization sessions will be held at **Washington District Library, 380 North Wilmor Road, Washington, Illinois, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, February 21, and Saturday, February 22, 2014.** Additional sessions will be offered at **Fondulac District Library, 400 Richland Street, East Peoria, Illinois, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, February 28, and Saturday, March 1, 2014.** Any central Illinois resident affected by the recent tornados and storms may attend at either location.

Using a copy stand and a digital camera, local volunteers will provide high quality, high resolution digital files of damaged photos, scrapbooks, and other paper or flat mementos to disaster victims from any central Illinois community at no charge. Digital files will be provided to the image owners on flash/USB drives that were donated to the project.

Additionally, volunteers will evaluate individual damaged photos for free digital restoration, Up to 20 photos per household may be electronically submitted to Operation Photo Rescue (OPR), a U.S. not-

for-profit organization comprised of a worldwide network of volunteers, for restoration and printing. Restored photo prints will be mailed to owners at no cost.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Genna Buhr at genna@fondulaclibrary.org or (309) 699-3917.

About Operation Photo Rescue

Operation Photo Rescue (OPR) is a federally registered 501(c) (3) not-for-profit charity that restores photographs that have been damaged by natural disasters. OPR was founded in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in January 2006 by two photojournalists, Dave Ellis and Becky Sell. Since then, the organization has grown into a network of over 2,000 volunteers from across the globe. Volunteers from all 50 U.S. states and 76 other countries have returned over 9,000 restored photos to survivors of hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires. For more information, please visit www.operationphotorescue.org or contact Margie Hayes at mhayes@operationphotorescue.org.

About Fondulac District Library

Fondulac District Library provides current, accurate, high demand, and high interest materials primarily to Fondulac District residents by acquiring, organizing and disseminating books, non-print materials, and services that help educate, enrich, entertain, and inform. Located in East Peoria, Illinois, Fondulac District Library is committed to the support of a culture of lifelong learning in the community. For more information about Fondulac District Library, visit www.fondulaclibrary.org or call (309) 699-3917.

About Washington District Library

Serving the Washington area since 1927, Washington District Library offers a large collection of books, magazines, and electronic resources to the community. The library also offers programming for teens, children and adults throughout the year. To learn more about the library's programs and services, visit www.washington.lib.il.us or call (309) 444-2241.



Example of photo restoration completed by Operation Photo Rescue volunteer

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