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## **Iowa Interstate Railroad Announces Results of Rail Ride for Flood Relief *The Salvation Army to Receive Over \$43,000***

Iowa Interstate Railroad (IAIS), a Cedar Rapids, IA based regional freight railroad, raised over \$43,000 for The Salvation Army from a weekend of steam-hauled operations, which included a record-tonnage steam freight train, passenger excursions from Rock Island, and a gourmet dinner train. The events took place October 18-19, 2008 between Iowa City, IA and Rock Island, IL.

"We usually operate the steam engines once or twice per year, but this year we thought 'let's try something different' and sponsored an organization involved in flood relief," said Dennis Miller, President of IAIS.

This idea evolved from just running a steam freight train to Rock Island to seven passenger trains between Rock Island, Walcott and Silvis, a sold out dinner train for about 150 people, and a one-way passenger trip from Rock Island to Iowa City. The food was all prepared on the nostalgic rail cars by railroad personnel from IAIS and IAIS' owner Railroad Development Corporation (RDC), and RDC-affiliated railroads in Guatemala and Peru. In total, 963 tickets were sold on all excursions

"We are very pleased to have the ability to donate this money to The Salvation Army, which has worked diligently since the floods in June to make sure that people in need have at least a hot meal. We anticipate receiving more funds as people continue to watch the videos of the trips on the internet and learn why the events took place. We would also like to thank the BNSF Railroad, who provided one of the dinner train cars, and Hy-Vee, who provided lunch at the site and donated a portion of their proceeds to The Salvation Army," stated Mr. Miller.

"The Cedar Rapids Salvation Army is incredibly grateful to Iowa Interstate Railroad for sponsoring this benefit event. These funds will go a long way to meet the needs of flood victims here in Linn County. People are still suffering and struggling here in our community. We know that we are not only rebuilding homes, we are rebuilding lives," stated Mindy Kayser, The Salvation Army.

The City of Rock Island handled marketing, ticket sales and coordination of the event. "Rock Island was excited to be part of this fundraiser," said Sally Heffernan, the City's Special Projects Manager. "This was our opportunity to help an organization that provided vital assistance to people hit hardest by this year's unprecedented floods."

If you wish to help or donate please contact the Salvation Army directly.