

WELCOME TO HAMBURG

ESTABLISHED 1858
CORNERSTONE OF IOWA



Hamburg Iowa is a warm and inviting community located in the southwest corner of Iowa. We are the hometown of 1,140 strong families, friends, neighbors and 35 caring businesses. The disastrous Midwest floods of 2019 have wiped out major portions of the town, miles of our streets, sidewalks, and water treatment capabilities.



We fought the fight but the Missouri River eventually won.



In March 2019, the town of Hamburg Iowa fell victim to the surging waters of the Missouri River. The incredible and resilient people of the town banded together to fight the rising waters. In just six hours, the citizens of Hamburg, along with scores of volunteers from other cities and towns, constructed nearly two miles of a four-foot-tall HESCO barrier, filled it with 6,000 tons of sand, and filled over 170,000 sandbags by hand.

Despite our fight, the flood waters breached the barriers and rushed our town, filling homes and business with water. The damage to people, property, and livelihoods, was devastating to the community.



This wasn't the first wave of the battle. In 2011, the people of Hamburg constructed a temporary levee that held back the full strength of the Missouri River for 120 days, saving the town. Federal regulations and the \$5.6 million required for the temporary levee to be removed and rebuilt to their specifications was simply insurmountable for our small community. We tried to raise money – even going so far as to create a social media video with the hope that it would go viral and help us raise money to keep the levee and save our town (<https://youtu.be/-h6dYEppB14>).



Despite our best efforts, we fell short of the \$5.6 million needed and were forced to remove the temporary levee. This ultimately sealed our fate. In March of 2019 when the unforgiving Missouri River waters started to rise again, this time our town was devastated.

While we are in the midst of the tragedy, we have hope and optimism.

As the Missouri waters began to recede, we began to clean up from the devastation. Federal and state officials are now working to prevent this type of disaster from ever happening again to communities along the Missouri River. Our hope and optimism first comes from seeing our residents and business helping each other to get through the tragedy. A once pretty little town, it is now covered with citizens helping one another pick up the pieces. They don't complain about losing homes from the flood and having no drinking water or heat, they just stoically move to the next task after completing the last. The strength of our community and its citizens gives us hope that we can get through this disaster.



Our hope and optimism also comes from knowing that there are millions of people out there who grew up in a wonderful hometown such as Hamburg Iowa. We don't know all of you yet, but we know you share the same strong strength of community, with family and friends pulling together in a time of tragedy. The citizens of Hamburg Iowa know we are not alone.

We need your help to rebuild.



Hamburg doesn't often ask for help. We are a community built on family and friends taking care of one another – doing whatever needs to be done, and helping those in need. \$5 million is a large amount and as with the \$5.6 million needed to save town after 2011, it is insurmountable for the citizens of Hamburg. However, with millions of friends across the world contributing any amount they can, it is a goal we can achieve and a fight we can win.

Our fight to save our town in 2011 and 2019 has become our fight to rebuild Hamburg Iowa back to the hometown community we love; and a place that people can live, work and prosper, with a quality of life second to none.

This is not the end of the town of Hamburg Iowa, not even close. This is but the beginning of a new chapter in Hamburg's story, and we are asking for your help in writing it.

Will you join our fight to rebuild Hamburg Iowa?

<http://www.hamburgiowa.org/recover-rebuild/>

