

TO: City Council

FROM: James L. App, City Manager

SUBJECT: Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief

DATE: September 6, 2005

NEED: For the City Council to consider community disaster aid for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

FACTS:

1. Hurricane Katrina has devastated large sections of the Southern coastline of the United States.
2. Disaster authorities speculate this may be recorded as the single most devastating natural disaster in the history of the United States.
3. The American Red Cross reports they are deploying the largest response in their history.
4. The full extent of damage and human suffering cannot be calculated at this time.
5. Paso Robles knows the trials associated with natural disasters, and the real benefit derived from outside assistance in emergency response and recovery.
6. The City Council may consider extending aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina via non-profit disaster response agencies.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: President Bush and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have suggested that cash donations are especially helpful to the disaster response effort. FEMA has published a partial list of response agencies that can be a vehicle for cash assistance (Exhibit A). In addition, FEMA cites the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters as a source of other non-profit disaster response agencies – a roster their member agencies is attached (Exhibit B).

Also attached for reference are articles suggesting *What's the best way to help* (Exhibit C) and reporting a Memorandum of Understanding between FEMA and America's Second Harvest establishing a formal ongoing relationship for the provision of food and supplies to victims of natural disasters (Exhibit D).

POLICY

REFERENCE: None.

FISCAL

IMPACT: An allocation, if authorized, may be drawn from General Contingency Funds.

- OPTIONS:**
- A. City Council Determine What, if any, Assistance Paso Robles Extend to Victims of Hurricane Katrina.**
 - B. Amend, Modify, or Reject the Options Above.**

Attachments:

- Exhibit A FEMA's Partial Listing of Non-Profit Disaster Relief Organizations
- Exhibit B National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Relief Roster of National Members
- Exhibit C Article *"What's the best way to help"*
- Exhibit D America Second Harvest disaster response partnership with FEMA



Cash Sought To Help Hurricane Victims, Volunteers Should Not Self-Dispatch

Release Date: August 29, 2005
Release Number: HQ-05-177

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Voluntary organizations are seeking cash donations to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina in Gulf Coast states, according to Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response. But, volunteers should not report directly to the affected areas unless directed by a voluntary agency.

"Cash donations are especially helpful to victims," Brown said. "They allow volunteer agencies to issue cash vouchers to victims so they can meet their needs. Cash donations also allow agencies to avoid the labor-intensive need to store, sort, pack and distribute donated goods. Donated money prevents, too, the prohibitive cost of air or sea transportation that donated goods require."

Volunteer agencies provide a wide variety of services after disasters, such as clean up, childcare, housing repair, crisis counseling, sheltering and food.

"We're grateful for the outpouring of support already," Brown said. "But it's important that volunteer response is coordinated by the professionals who can direct volunteers with the appropriate skills to the hardest-hit areas where they are needed most. Self-dispatched volunteers and especially sightseers can put themselves and others in harm's way and hamper rescue efforts."

Here is a list of phone numbers set up solely for cash donations and/or volunteers.

Donate cash to:

American Red Cross
1-800-HELP NOW (435-7669) English,
1-800-257-7575 Spanish;

Operation Blessing
1-800-436-6348

America's Second Harvest
1-800-344-8070

Donate Cash to and Volunteer with:

Adventist Community Services
1-800-381-7171

B'nai B'rith International

Catholic Charities, USA
1-800-919-9338

Christian Disaster Response
941-956-5183 or 941-551-9554

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
1-800-848-5818

Church World Service

Attachment A
Page 1 of 2

1-800-297-1516

Convoy of Hope
417-823-8998

Corporation for National and Community Service Disaster Relief Fund
(202) 606-6718

Lutheran Disaster Response
800-638-3522

Mennonite Disaster Service
717-859-2210

Nazarene Disaster Response
888-256-5886

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
800-872-3283

Salvation Army
1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

Southern Baptist Convention -- Disaster Relief
1-800-462-8657, ext. 6440

United Methodist Committee on Relief
1-800-554-8583

For further information: visit the website for the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) at:
<http://www.nvoad.org/>.

This list of organizations is provided by the National Organization of Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster. Please email EST-DONAT-A@dhs.gov if you are interested in having your organization added to the list.

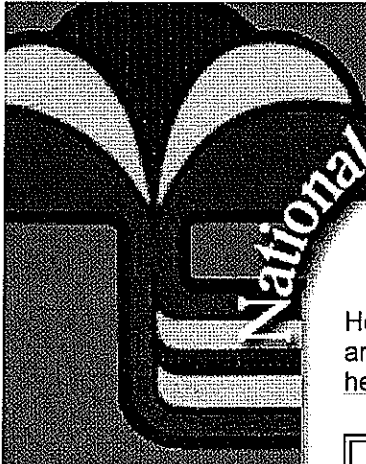
Please check with your tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for more information regarding the tax deductibility of your donation.

The listing of or omission of an institution or organization on this Web site does not refer to programmatic capability nor does it confer any official status, approval, or endorsement of the institution or organization itself. This listing does not purport to be a listing of all organizations that are providing relief in the affected area. Additionally, there may be organizations providing relief in the affected area that are not accepting donations at this time. It is not the purpose of this Web site to make, or enable to be made, any representation to the public concerning the organizations listed. This listing is for informational purposes only. Any contributions you choose to make from links on this Web site are at your sole discretion.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

Last Updated: Thursday, 01-Sep-2005 07:53:00

[Return to the article](#)



National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

[About NVOAD](#) [History & Mission](#) [Poll](#) [Links](#) [Calendar](#) [Contact](#)

National Members

Here is a list of National VOADs. Click on a name to link to information about each member. If you are currently not a member of a state or territory VOAD, but would like to become one, click [here](#).

[News & Information](#)
[Member Tools](#)
[Annual Conference](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Members](#)
[Documents](#)
[Links](#)
[Home](#)

•	• (1) National VOAD Board of Directors FY 2004 - 2005
• (2) National VOAD Members	• Adventist Community Services
• America's Second Harvest	• American Baptist Men USA
• American Disaster Reserve	• American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL)
• American Red Cross	• Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT)
• Catholic Charities USA	• Christian Disaster Response
• Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC)	• Church of the Brethren- Emergency Response
• Church World Service	• Convoy of Hope
• Disaster Psychiatry Outreach	• Episcopal Relief and Development (formerly The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief)
• Friends Disaster Service, Inc.	• Humane Society of the United States
• International Aid	• International Critical Incident Stress Foundation
• International Relief Friendship Foundation (IRFF)	• Lutheran Disaster Response
• Mennonite Disaster Service	• Mercy Medical Airlift: National Patient Travel Center
• National Emergency Response Team	• National Organization for Victim Assistance
• Nazarene Disaster Response	• Northwest Medical Teams International
• Presbyterian Church (USA)	• REACT International, Inc.
• Society of St. Vincent de Paul	• Southern Baptist Convention
• The Points of Light Foundation	• The Salvation Army
• United Jewish Communities	• United Methodist Committee on Relief and the General Board of Global Ministries
• Volunteers in Technical Assistance	• Volunteers of America
• Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ	• World Vision

Attachment B



Reporting
Disaster
Response

CURRENT NEWS

DISASTER NEWS NETWORK

[Current News](#)

[Give Now](#)

[Volunteer Today](#)

[How to Help](#)

[Preparedness](#)

[DNN Blog](#)

[Public Violence](#)

[About DNN](#)

[Email Updates](#)

[Store](#)

[Links](#)

[Comments](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Latest Appeal](#)

[RSS Feed](#)

Site Search

Enter Key Words



What's the best way to help?

SUSAN KIM

GIVE NOW



BALTIMORE (August 30, 2005) —

What's the best way to help people affected by Hurricane Katrina? Cash donations are best, agreed responders.

[SEE FULL STORY](#)



UMCOR



Monetary contributions allow responding organizations to purchase exactly what is most urgently needed by hurricane survivors - and to pay for the transportation necessary to distribute the supplies.

"They are in search-and-rescue and will be for the next several days."

—Beth DeGraff

Material donations - especially used clothing - tend to pile up and become a 'second disaster,' said John Walker, spokesperson for Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS).

"One of the major reasons not to donate material goods like clothes is they get stockpiled," he said. "During several recent disasters - during the hurricanes in Florida, for example - stuff would pour in and they would have to throw things out."

In Alabama, where relief supplies were being distributed, local response leaders were refusing clothing donations but encouraging cash donations and gift cards to major local outlets. "Clothing is so intense to deal with in volume," said Mike Dillaber of Volunteer Mobile in Alabama. "We don't have the personnel to process those types of donation."

Attachment C
Page 1 of 3



Needs can change daily, responders said, and it boosts local or state economies to purchase items nearer to the disaster site. The supplies get into the hands of people who need it more quickly, too.

"Sending financial aid is really what's needed most," agreed Beth DeGraff, spokesperson for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. "That way we can purchase what is needed. We don't have to truck a bunch of stuff down there."

The problem with packing and sending donations without going through a response group is that, often, those donations have no way of getting to people who need them the most.

Right now, showing up to volunteer at hurricane-stricken places is also ill-advised, said John Walker, spokesperson for Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS). "We really tell you not to just show up," he said. "They are in search-and-rescue and will be for the next several days."

"New Orleans has locked down until Monday, and has just escorted film crews out," he said.

In every disaster situation, the compassion to respond forms immediately, pointed out Walker. "However," he said, "it may be compassionate but it's not helpful to show up without being affiliated with an organization that's already officially approved."

Responding groups are working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD), said Walker. NVOAD coordinates planning efforts by many voluntary organizations, and member organizations provide more effective and less duplication in service by getting together before disasters strike. Once disasters occur, NVOAD or an affiliated state VOAD helps coordinate communication between members and other voluntary agencies. This cooperative effort, honed through the last decade, is regarded by responders as an effective way for a wide variety of volunteers and organizations to work together in a crisis, he explained.

"So the thing about just showing up is that you can easily get in the way of other agencies," said Walker.

Dillaber, also chairperson of the Mobile County VOAD, said he simply could not use unaffiliated volunteers. "We have no power. Grocery stores aren't open. There is no available fuel."

Both Walker and Dillaber encouraged volunteers to affiliate themselves with a group - and look at needs months from now. "We're going to need people for three years," said Dillaber. "In New Orleans, they'll be needed for five years."

Funds are needed for organizations that help people make a long-term recovery long after the response phase is over. Some faith-based and voluntary agencies will also use cash donations to help meet needs that will go unmet months from now, after emergency relief groups have left the scene.

For people who want to do something hands-on, several faith-based disaster response groups offer online guidelines covering how to assemble kits of relief supplies.

Posted August 31, 2005 11:55 AM

Related Articles from Disaster News Network:

- **'Normal' response grinds to halt**
Hurricane obliterated normal channels
- **Gas disruption affects hundreds**
Prices rise, pumps close
- **Animals receiving help**
Forgotten victims
- **Hurricane refugees in for long haul**
Responders worry about scale
- **'Catatonic shock'**
Refugee has no idea what's next

More articles on [Hurricanes](#)

More articles on [How to Help](#)

Return to: [Current News](#)

Member News - America's Second Harvest and FEMA

August 17, 2005

Situation: Release Date: August 9, 2005

Release Number: HQ-05-162

Washington, DC, August 9, 2005 -- Under Secretary Michael D. Brown signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Robert Forney, the President of America's Second Harvest, The Nation's Food Bank Network while Ben Curran looks on. America's Second Harvest is the nation's largest non-governmental hunger-relief organization. This year, in response to Hurricane Dennis, America's Second Harvest provided over 480,000 pounds of products to the most affected areas. During the 2004 hurricanes that hit the Southeast, the organization handled more than 4 million pounds of food and drink support for the relief operation. The MOU formalizes the partnership between FEMA and America's Second Harvest in planning for and responding to disasters. Bill Kopplitz/FEMA

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Under Secretary of Department of Homeland Security Michael D. Brown and America's Second Harvest President Robert Forney signed an official Memorandum of Understanding today establishing a permanent relationship to bring much needed food and supplies to victims of the nation's worst disasters.

"America's Second Harvest continues to be a critically important FEMA partner in the national, regional, state and local leadership roles it plays in the coordination of volunteers and donated goods," said Brown, who heads the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). "Each piece of the disaster assistance pie is equally important and is equally depended upon by the American people. We appreciate the full participation of America's Second Harvest."

As the nation's Food Bank Network, America's Second Harvest works with more than 210 food banks around the country, serving all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The organization distributed more than seven million pounds of relief supplies to nine states and Puerto Rico during the historic 2004 hurricanes. The supplies accounted for 236 truck loads of food, enough to fill a three-mile convoy of trucks bumper-to-bumper. Already this year, America's Second Harvest provided over 483,000 pounds of supplies to the areas most affected by Hurricane Dennis.

The Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework for FEMA and America's Second Harvest to continue working together in carrying out disaster response and recovery operations. In addition to coordination for distribution of supplies in a disaster, highlights of the agreement include:

Coordinated outreach campaigns to encourage mitigation of hazard risks and community involvement both before and after disasters occur.

As permitted by law, FEMA will offer surplus products to America's Second Harvest food banks for use in disaster and/or regular food bank operations.

Active participation in and support of the national and state-level Volunteer Organizations in Active Disasters to further coordinate relief efforts with other national and state relief groups.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

Last Updated: Tuesday, 09-Aug-2005 15:08:40