SVDP-USA DISASTER SERVICES

DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

Vincentians deploy to San Juan, Puerto Rico for P-RAC Operation

Show above, an image from Monday's Parish Recovery Assistance Center where Vincentians are working in tandem with the clergy in the Diocesan Council in San Juan, Puerto Rico

The Disaster Services of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul-USA working with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the clergy in the Diocesan Council, Sociedad de San Vincente de Paul Inc./ Consejo Central de Puerto Rico, is launching a diocesan parish based relief effort called Parish Recovery Assistance Centers (P-RACs). The P-RACs will be in Canovanas and Manatí, Puerto Rico. P-RACs are a holistic community based approach to helping families immediately after a disaster hits" stated Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO of Disaster Services, SVDP-USA. Catholic organizations are working together to deliver critical information and referral services ***Continued....***

and immediate relief to the survivors of Hurricane Maria. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul worked with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, TEEX to develop a "Just in Time" training program for the P-RACs. TEEX is a internationally recognized leader in the delivery of emergency response and workforce training. Ms. Disco-Shearer said that "we wanted to have a consistent model in the delivery of services to Maria survivors and TEEX assisted us with a formal training program and a logistics model for the Parish Recovery Assistance Centers." The P-RACs will be led by trained Rapid Response Teams that have come to Puerto Rico from around the United States. The Rapid Response Teams will train other parish based groups to provide information on FEMA, SBA, ONA, State and local disaster programs, and provide hygiene kits, bottled water, light medical checkups, spiritual and emotional care, and other forms of help as required. P-RACs do not replace other VOAD and FEMA Recovery operations, but rather compliment those services by being the initial face to face interaction of the survivors with their community in the road to recovery. The P-RACs will consist of multiple parish communities working together to respond to Hurricane Maria. A team of 16 Vincentians state-side deployed and will be on site through this weekend. They are also providing support to the local Council Vincentians through training and introducing them to their local FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison, American Red Cross Partners, and to their local state based Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster leadership. Addresses and Hours follow: Parroquia La Resurrección 177, 175 PR-188, Canovanas, 00729, Puerto Rico HRS: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. December 4th – 8th, 2017. Parroquia Sagrada Familia PR-670, Manatí, 00674, Puerto Rico HRS: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. December 4th – 8th, 2017. We'll recap the operation in next week's e-newsletter.

These are the faces of hope from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"P-RACs are a holistic community based approach to helping families immediately after a disaster hits"

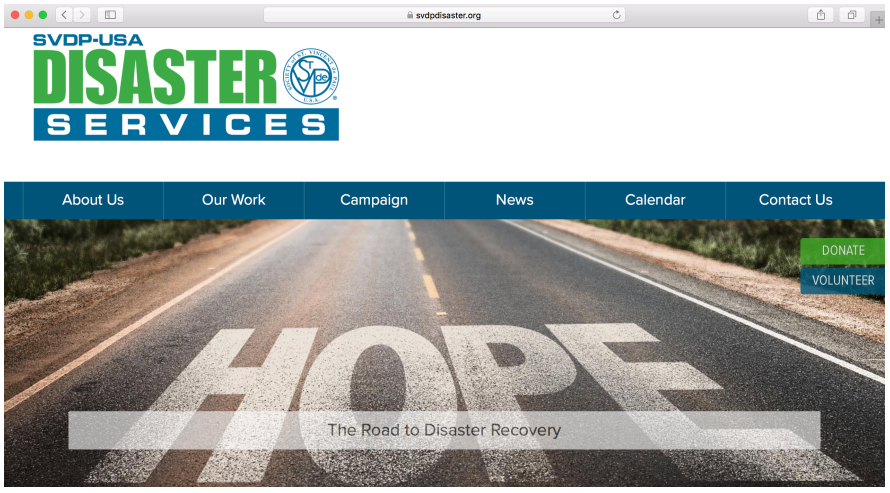
-ELIZABETH DISCO-SHEARER, CEO

Shown Right

A quick group shot of the deployed Vincentians, local Vincentians and clergy.

Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA Unveils New Website

The Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA unveiled a new website this past week. The site is coming together in phases. Please be sure to stop by and check us out at www.svdpdisaster.org. We are seeking volunteers for future deployments. If you are interested in learning more and volunteering your time in your local community or another community locally, please be sure to fill out the volunteer form!



US Virgin Island Receives Goods from Fort Wayne, Indiana

Our Vincentians in the US Virgin Islands have received a shipment of goods donated from t Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church and St. Mary's Catholic School in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A mass collection was organized by Diana Anderson who is a member of the Parish there and religious education teacher. Terrance Taylor of South Bend, Indiana coordinated the logistics to get the supplies through a ship that sailed to the island. As many as 1,000 items such as backpacks filled with relief items, hygiene kits for men, women, and children were collected. The US Virgin Islands shared these images to send back to the who helped raise funds and collect goods. Alma Wells, of the SVDP Council in the US Virgin Islands stated, "God is good". She has been ***Continued...***

"God is Good"

-ALMA WELLS OF SVDP ST. THOMAS IN THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS

in managing the disaster recovery efforts on the ground and we appreciate her servant leadership in aiding those who have suffered through the recent dramatic disaster events being battered by both Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria there on the island. Today, Governor Mapp renewed the declaration of a State of Emergency for the U.S. Virgin Islands in an official order. This declaration is effective through January 4th, unless earlier lifted or extended. For inquires in continuing to send aid to the US Virgin Islands, please reach out to us and we will provide you with feedback and guidance on best practices.

Current Major Weather Related Events
California Wildfire

Over 200,000 have been evacuated from the raging wildfires in Los Angeles, officials say:

•Four wildfires are raging in the Los Angeles area, near Bel-Air, Ventura, Sylmar and Santa Clarita.

•At least 180 structures have been destroyed as tens of thousands evacuate.

•More than 27,000 people were evacuated from the affected area in Ventura, with at least another 100,000 evacuated away from the

Creek Fire near Sylmar, KNBC reported. Multiple fires continue uncontrolled The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection confirmed Wednesday three other fires are burning out of control in the Los Angeles area. At 90,000 acres, or 140 sq. miles, the Fire is now ***Continued...***

bigger than the city of Philadelphia. Stay tuned for more updates on the latest California wildfire news. Please pray for all those impacted.

•The Thomas Fire in Ventura has burned 65,000 acres with zero containment.
•The Rye Fire near amusement park Six Flags Magic Mountain has burned 7,000 acres with 5 percent containment.
•The Creek Fire has burned 11,000 acres with zero containment.
•The Skirball Fire has burned 150 acres with zero containment.

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SVDP-USA DISASTER SERVICES

TWITTER

We re-tweet the weather around the clock during major events. We share posts that are relevant for major disaster recovery efforts from local government and state officials. We post images and keep you up to date on our work across the US. Disaster Recovery experts and weather related experts are active on Twitter and provide real time live updates. twitter.com/svdpusadisaster

FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page is linked to our Twitter account so you won't miss a beat. We also have been uploading photos in our gallery from time to time. Follow us on Facebook and share our posts with your network.
www.facebook.com/DisasterServicesCorp

LINKEDIN

We have our first official company page on LinkedIn. We post articles that we have been featured in from the news. We also post relevant business related articles of interest here. Follow us on LinkedIn and share our posts with your network.
Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

VIMEO

This is our first private video channel. Tune in to see our program spotlight photos and coming soon training from
Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO of the Disaster Services, Corp, SVDP-USA.
vimeo.com/disasterservicescorp