

DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

JANUARY 10, 2019

Vincentian, Brent Roden, shares a heartbreaking survivor story from the field in Chico, California found on page 13.



CHANGE A LIFE

Support our mission and
help us help others.

Visit www.svdpcdisaster.org

Donate: <http://bit.ly/SVDPDONATE>

www.svdpcdisaster.org

CEO UPDATE

ELIZABETH DISCO-SHEARER

This week, I would like to highlight and recognize the unsung heroes among us. The Disaster Services Corporation is extremely fortunate for the cadre of volunteers who who give endless hours of their time to assist the disaster survivors across the nation. For the past 48 days, Vincentians from Chico, CA have provided Disaster Case Work to over 4,538 households. Daily, these volunteers provide emotional and spiritual support, listening to the stories of the families that have lost their homes, belongings, and in some cases loved ones. Brent Roden, the Team Leader, for the Camp Fire Recovery efforts states that: “Our Volunteer core group continues to express sincerity and empathy with applicants while providing immediate relief, a sense of direction, camaraderie and advocacy in processing FEMA/SBA”.

Supporting disaster survivors and guiding them on their road to recovery is what it means to be Vincentian. Our Vincentians reinforce the survivors faith and inspire hope while preventing families from falling into situational poverty.

If you would like to be part of our volunteer team and serve in disaster zones across the country, please go to our website at www.svdpdisaster.org and sign up to be a volunteer. Thank you to the unsung heroes from Northern CA to Puerto Rico, who quietly do this ministry.



MONTHLY BLOG: SEEING THE NEED, MEETING THE NEED IN THE WAKE OF THE COSTLIEST DISASTERS ON RECORD

The United States led the world in catastrophic disasters last year, with an overall damage cost of \$16.5 billion. The devastating and deadly Camp Fire that consumed California in November was the world's costliest natural disaster in 2018. In second and third place last year were Hurricanes Michael (\$16 billion) and Florence (\$14 billion). Florence dumped heavy rain across the Carolinas in September, and Michael tore into the Florida Panhandle in October.



Click the link to read on: <http://bit.ly/2SHqYg1>

VINCENTIANS ACTIVE IN DISASTER RECOVERY

A REPORT FROM THE DISASTER RESOURCE CENTER IN CHICO, CALIFORNIA

SITREP No. 49

Time period covered by the SITREP January 07, 2019 Butte Camp Fire (DR-4407 CA)

1.0 Situation to date: The Camp Fire's cause remains under investigation. Curfew is in effect for the city of Paradise for all public locations between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. It doesn't apply to first responders or utility staff. The death toll remains at 86 individuals officially recovered. The number of officially reported/unaccounted for stands at 3. All evacuation orders are lifted. Disaster officials are scrambling to secure a place to sort and process the remnants of nearly 19,000 structures destroyed in the wildfire that began on Nov. 8. The mammoth undertaking has been slowed by staunch opposition in nearby communities eyed as potential sites for a temporary scrapyard, which would receive 250 to 400 truckloads of concrete and metal each day. The more recent proposal to open a scrapyard in Oroville has struck a nerve. At a town hall meeting late December, residents spoke of losing family members who worked at the Koppers site to cancer. (State health officials tried to determine a decade ago why the number of pancreatic cancer cases in Oroville unexpectedly doubled in 2004 and 2005, but results were inconclusive.) FEMA IA numbers remain at 15% of DRC opening. DRC numbers were just over 1,000 today. There is pervasive discussion of a DRC satellite opening in Paradise. The town of Gridley, 32 miles south of Paradise, has agreed to place 350 THUs on its south side, representing 15% of estimated need.

2.0 Actions to date:

DRC (LAC) opened at 9am with 3 intake interview volunteers, and 1 card interview volunteer and 1 roving volunteer. We had an intake volunteer come from Sacramento for the day. The first interview was at 9:45am. A minimum of one of various \$20 gift cards were provided at the completion of each intake interview. With families/households in need, privately and Red Cross donated gift or debit cards are additionally provided. Hygiene kits were distributed today. Gift Card data log tracking continues. Provided Volunteer Sign-in data to State for Match to be used in Paradise infrastructure State grants. Presently the SVdP station will remain open through Jan 11th. DRC was open until 6pm and our last interview finished just at 5:15pm. By end of day, we had filed 27 new interviews; the total from 11/16/18-01/07/19 = approx. 4,538 unique. Volunteers provided approx. 49 hours of service today, total from 11/16/18-01/07/19 = approx. 2,815 hrs.

3.0 Actions to be completed:

Continue Intake Interview presence at DRC which is maintaining a public schedule of 9am to 6pm, Mon thru Sat. Fri Jan 11th will be SVdP's last official presence. Begin logistics of closing down SVdP DRC station. Attend SBA Disaster training at 211 Tues at 2pm. Attend LTRG Housing Committee 9am Thurs. Attend LTRG mtgs, to be held at 8am Fri. Attend LTRG-Disaster Case Mgt. Committee mtgs to be held at 10am Fri. Continue entering Intake data. Continue maintenance of financial summary of ODS-Chico Conference support in regards Sac Council funding.

*MAKE THIS YEAR
IMPACTFUL FOR A U.S.
DISASTER SURVIVOR*

Support our mission and
help us help others.

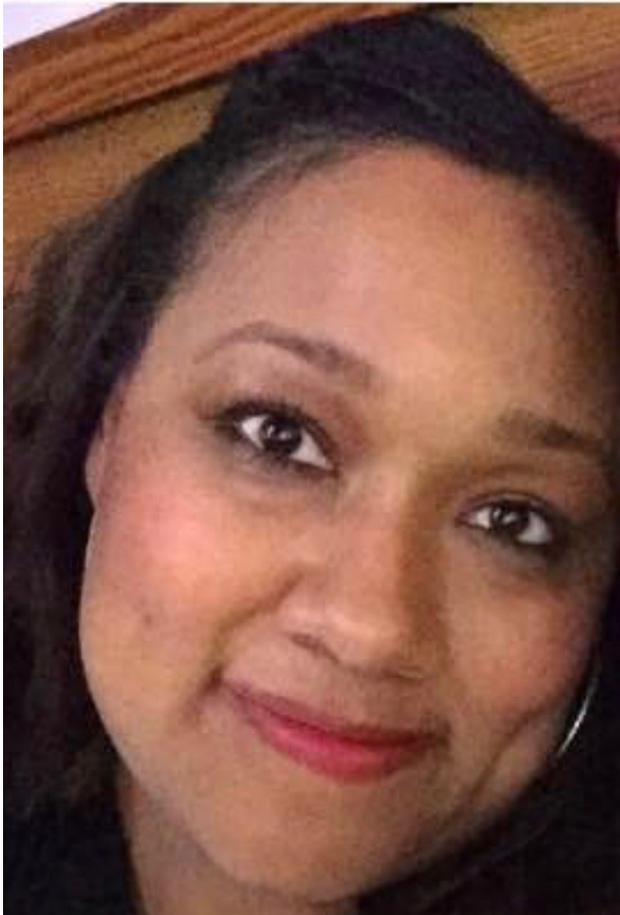
#DisasterRelief

WWW.SVDPDISASTER.ORG



www.svdpcdisaster.org

MRS. BONNIE DONALDSON
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
BATON ROUGE, LA



My name is Bonnie Donaldson and I am married with two children. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Southern University in 1993. Some things I enjoy are spending time with my family, watching movies and reading. I have worked as an Account Executive in the waste and uniform industry for over 13 years. I have also worked in Disaster Recovery for over 11 years. I am elated to help the clients in my community return to their homes. I love seeing a smile on my client's face when I know that I have help meet a need by providing them with resources.

When the opportunity was presented for me to become a Disaster Case Manager I was delighted just to see my client's needs met and to see the smiles on their faces. Then I realized that my labor was not in vein.



CHRISTMAS AND PROGRAMMATIC ACHIEVEMENT CELEBRATION HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY



On December 21, 2018, the Texas DCMP invited all program staff to celebrate Christmas and the accomplishments of staff and Harvey Survivors since the launch of the program in May 2018. Texas DCMP staff begin the Christmas and programmatic achievement celebration with an opening prayer lead by DCM Supervisor Aunshelle White. We asked for God's blessings as we continue to do His work and assist Hurricane Harvey survivors.

SARAH RICKS
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY



DCM Sarah Ricks was chosen by her peers in Jefferson County Texas as the Most Valuable Team Player for her leadership and the initiative she takes to assist her clients and peers. She is pictured with her Supervisor Louis Medina.

SHONDA LONG DISASTER CASE MANAGER HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY

DCM Shonda Long was nominated as Most Valuable Player by her team which serves Liberty, Chambers, Walker, And San Jacinto counties in the Texas DCMP. Shonda Long is pictured with her Supervisor Aunshelle White (left). Both ladies are United States veterans who have dedicated their skills and leadership to assist DSC SVDP-USA and Hurricane Harvey survivors.



CAITLIN DURHAM
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY



DCM Caitlin Durham is pictured with her Supervisor Cathy Garcia (left) as she accepts her award for Most Valuable Team Player. Caitlin Durham was nominated by her team who serves Jackson, Wharton, Victoria, Aransas, and Nueces counties in the Texas DCMP. Caitlin's peers cited her hard work and dedication to assist her peers and Harvey Survivors with recovery.

ANGELA CARTER DISASTER CASE MANAGER HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY

DCM Angela Carter is pictured with her former Supervisor and fellow DCM, David Hancock, and new Supervisor Shanon Granado, as she received her Orange County team award for Most Valuable Player. Angela's team nominated her for the value she brings when assisting her clients and peers in the TX DCMP.



CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE

SURVIVOR STORY

SHARED BY VINCENTIAN, BRENT RODEN

Dear Elizabeth:

Knowing that our case confidentiality would prohibit my sharing much, I spent most of my lunch breaks in the World Central Kitchen open lunch area. There, both DRC staff and survivors mingled and discussed their day in the DRC along with the early raw retelling of escape. I will use those stories to weave some sense of the events onset. I don't recall the names accurately, so I will use placeholders. One of the photos I'd sent might reside nicely beside this if you think its what you're looking for:

Dottie could hear her dog backing in the back yard. Barking she thought, to let her know he wanted to come in. When she opened the door the wind blew it out of her 76 year old grip. Confused at first, she realized that red hot embers were blowing past her, "horizontally" through the open doorway into her house. Gathering up her little dog she closed the door and looked about her house, the floor was strewn with glowing twigs and pine needles. She brushed a spark off the singed coat of her dog and snatched up her car keys.

Down across town a bit, Mark, a just retired carpenter, still in his slippers, was sipping in freshly brewed coffee as he first caught the whiff of smoke. Not uncommon enough he first thought, then went back to mindfully patching together the day before him, which might actually include finishing the remodel of his bathroom. His phone rang. On the other end a friend who works with PG&E told him, "You'd better get out and take a look around. There's a fire report down the ravine from you." Opening the door onto his patio, looking down some 200 feet into the ridge that is his back yard, he could see the flames climbing the ridge towards him.

Ed, not an early riser and having fallen back to sleep, awoke slowly, surprised by the darkness replacing what he'd expected to be the early morning light of a cloudless sky. The smoke fully blocked out the sun above his mobile home, that was located up towards the top of the Ridge which was the footprint of Paradise, and struck first by the racing flames. He tried the bedside lamp but the power to his house was off, he fumbled for anything, everything. Gaining possession of his glasses, he pulled on his trousers and heard what sounded like a bomb exploding; realizing later it was his neighbor's propane tank. He ran outside with keys in hand, nothing else. The flames were racing along the road where cars had already begun to jam the street in front of his driveway. His best friend came to mind and Ed, in his early 80s, found himself running the two blocks to his friends house. There between his friend's house and Ed was a wall of fire, chest high. He called. He called and he called. His choice now was run through the wall of fire or back to his truck and try to escape.

Now, safe in the DRC his daughter consoled him. "You made the best choice dad" reassuring him with a hug of his shoulder. As he looked into my eyes, he spoke softly, flatly, "I lost my best friend back there."



Make This Year Impactful for a
US Disaster Survivor

Support Our Mission

Visit www.svdpcdisaster.org

Donate:
<http://bit.ly/SVDPDONATE>



www.svdpcdisaster.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Please consider supporting our mission by donating your time, providing financial support, and/or becoming active in your local community on disaster preparedness and recovery as a Vincentian.

Please stop by our newly updated website: www.svdpcdisaster.org

An online store and training resources will soon be available exclusively for Vincentians active in disaster recovery.

Follow us on Twitter: [@svdpcusadisaster](https://twitter.com/svdpcusadisaster)

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DisasterServicesCorp/

Follow us on LinkedIn: Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

Monique Brent, mbrent@svdpcdisaster.org
Manager, Volunteer Resources and Deployments

For those of you interested in volunteering, please stop by our website at www.svdpcdisaster.org and click on the volunteer button at the top right corner. It will take you to a webform to complete. This information will help us gain better insight on you and be able to better pair you with what we have open and available to volunteer with. We will set up a one on one phone call shortly after the form has been completed. As a reminder, we cannot continue all these great works without your help. Please consider donating to the general disaster fund at www.svdpcdisaster.org to keep our programs running so that we can in turn support those who have been impacted by disaster here in the United States.

