



DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

JANUARY 17, 2019

Vincentians in Puerto Rico are connected throughout the community aiding in their recovery from Hurricane Maria. Kevin Peach, DSC's COO, shares his experience on the ground with the team there.

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DISASTER SURVIVOR*

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#DisasterRelief

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BLOG: PARTNERSHIP IN PUERTO RICO



This week, Kevin Peach, Disaster Services Corporation’s Chief Operating Officer traveled to San Juan to attend the Team Rubicon Puerto Rico Celebration with members of the DSC Disaster Case Management Puerto Rico team. The event recognized the tremendous work that has been done to rebuild homes following the recent hurricanes. Reflecting on the trip, Mr. Peach shared “While DSC is known for their quality of work, I had no idea of the significant impact DSC has had on Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans. It was amazing to me to see people approaching our staff to thank them and for our partners to say that they could not have completed their mission without us. It caught me completely off guard.” Kevin shares his experience from the field.

Click the link to read on: <https://www.svdpcdisaster.org/blog/partnership-puerto-rico>

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>

MS. TRUDY JONES
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
BATON ROUGE, LA



My name is Trudy Jones and I have enjoyed working in the accounting field and disaster recovery. I attended schools in Ascension Parish and graduated from St. Amant High School. I am proud to be the mother of a ten-year old daughter Daija and enjoy spending quality time with my family. My current hobbies are making DIY home interior items, reading, and being a softball Mom.

I was lead to be a DCM after working in Disaster Recovery after hurricane Katrina and the BP Oil Spill. My motivation to continue to work in the Disaster Recovery is to see the happiness in my client's faces to reach the point of recovery. It's my desire to continue to grow in the Disaster Recovery field and to help plan and facilitate recovery efforts. I am thankful to have this opportunity to work for Disaster

Services Corporation of SVDP USA.



A HAPPY VET AUTHORED BY DEBORAH PARKER

Terry Elkins, a local veteran reached out to Saint Anne Church in Beaumont, TX requesting assistance in obtaining furniture for his apartment that received flood damage from Hurricane Harvey. After speaking with Mr. Elkins, he understood the intake process and the House-In-A Box program, but kindly asked if there was any way he could have his recliner replaced since he must sit up and sleep at times due to medical reasons. I quickly reached out to my friends at Habitat for Humanity who were more than happy to donate a gently used recliner to Mr. Elkins from their Re-Store. Within an hour the recliner was delivered. Mr. Elkins was very surprised to see the new recliner and gave me a big huge hug and we shared a few tears. It's moments like these that make our efforts worthwhile!





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HURRICANE HARVEY SURVIVOR RECEIVES A HOME REPLACEMENT

Therril Thompson is a 73 year-old retired business owner who was born in Michigan where his 97 year old mother still lives. Mr. Thompson moved to Galveston County in 1994 to take advantage of a management offer with a printing company to take on the task of upgrading their computing technology equipment.

Mr. Thompson retired to Bacliff "on the Texas Riviera Coast in 2000 purchasing the land and mobile that was destroyed during the Hurricane Harvey disaster. He established an enjoyable life with a diverse group of friends and neighbors who support each other to this day.

His Bacliff friends helped him, and his service dog evacuate and provided temporary shelter during the immediate aftermath of the storm. His mobile home was destroyed and the funds from FEMA was not enough to replace his home. Furthermore, being retired, he did not have the funds to recover. Disaster Services SVDP Glen Swift case manager met Mr. Thompson through outreach and immediately started to advocate for the client. He assisted client in applying for the Good Samaritan Purse Mobile Home Replacement program and was approved in November 2018.



HURRICANE HARVEY SURVIVOR RECEIVES A HOME REPLACEMENT



Mr. Thompson's brother drove an old RV down from Michigan some months after the flood where he resided until receiving his keys to his new mobile home last week. We all cried including the little dog. Mr. Thompson immediately called his mother and told her to pack her bags and get ready for a new life on the Texas Coast Riviera! He had planned to relocate her here in September, but Harvey saw fit to dash hopes and quell their dream.

Well, the dream survives, and hope is restored! Mr. Thompson wants to thank Disaster Service Corp. SVDP and GSP for sticking it out with him. He promises to pay it forward and says, "be your own best advocate while helping those less able to do for themselves!"

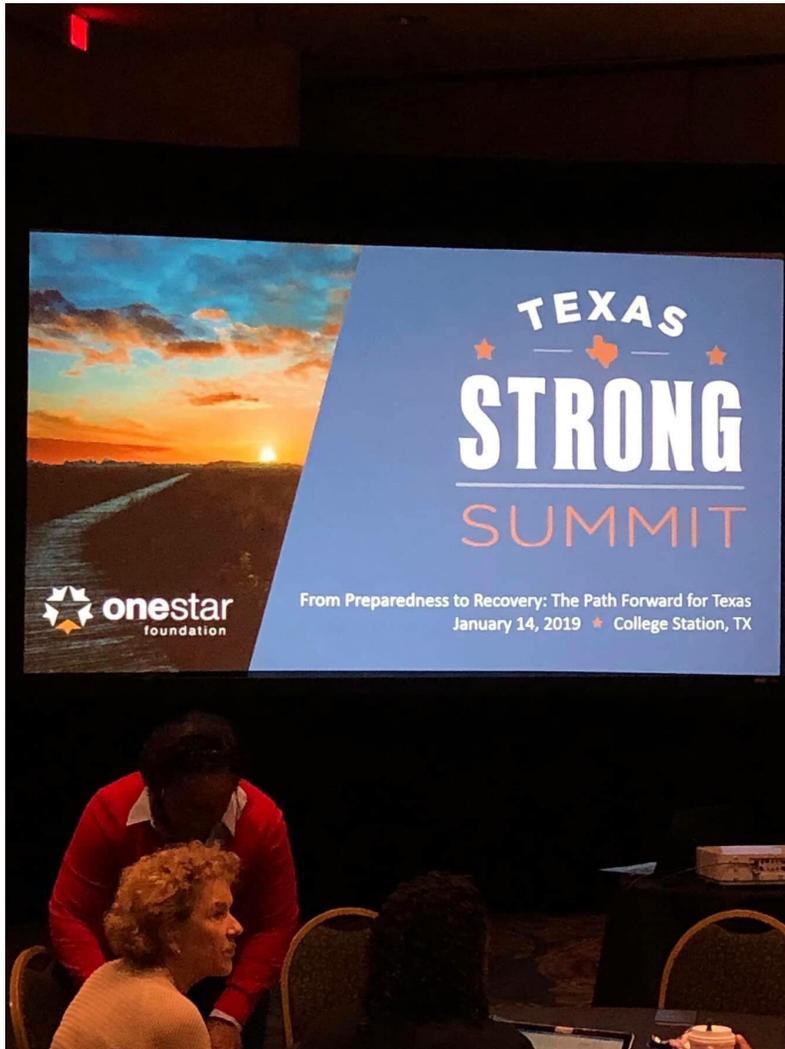
D S C R E P R E S E N T S A T T E X A S S T R O N G S U M M I T



The Texas DCMP management staff attend the 2019 Texas Strong Summit.

Left to Right: Shanon Granado - Orange County, DCM Supervisor, Patrice Relf - Director of Case Management, Susan Reno - Galveston, Matagorda, and Wharton County, DCM Supervisor, Cathy Garcia - Jackson, Wharton, Victoria, Aransas, and Nueces County, DCM Supervisor, Aunshelle White - Liberty, Chambers, Walker, and San Jacinto County, DCM Supervisor, Louis Medina - Jefferson & Sabine County, DCM Supervisor

DSC REPRESENTS AT TEXAS STRONG SUMMIT



VINCENTIANS ACTIVE IN DISASTER RECOVERY FROM THE DISASTER RESOURCE CENTER IN CHICO, CALIFORNIA



Above is a picture of our last day at the Disaster Resource Center. We could not have helped the multitude of people we did without the help and support of Elizabeth Disco and the DSC Team. Thank you so very much for assisting us with this great adventure. - Vincentian, Susan Roden of Chico, California

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."



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FOR MORE INFORMATION



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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.

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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.

