



DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

JANUARY 24, 2019

*Success stories from the field shared on page 6 and 7
from Hurricane Harvey territory.*

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AN UPDATE FROM OUR CEO, ELIZABETH DISCO-SHEARER

2019 has started off where 2018 left off, with challenging weather and continued uncertainty as to when the government will reopen and when full recovery will be completed. This week, many households across the nation are experiencing frigid weather gripping a large percentage of the country. The weather always hits families living in poverty the hardest. Additionally, the longest government shutdown in our country's history is creating a manmade crisis for many federal employees who are calling on SVDP to help with rent, mortgages, food, prescription assistance, and utilities. We continue to deliver high quality services to those who need it most, but we cannot do it alone. Please see the list of projects and focus areas DSC is working on here: <https://svdpdisaster.tracedonate.com>.



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. CAROLYN EVANS
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
BATON ROUGE, LA



EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science – Rehabilitation Services

Master of Science – Therapeutic Recreation and Leisure Studies

HOBBIES: Spending time with family, Cooking, Singing

WHAT LED YOU TO BECOME A DCM?

I became a DCM because I believe it's a calling to serve others. I grew up seeing my parents give to those less fortunate and they found great joy in their service to others. Being a DCM allows me to help families prioritize their recovery after a disaster and everyday life situations.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO SERVE IN THIS ROLE or WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

My motivation comes from seeing the finished outcome of the families I serve after they have achieved their recovery goals. I enjoy giving back to my community.

SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD HURRICANE HARVEY



Prior to Hurricane Harvey, the client and family lived a safe, secure and functional life in their home and had all the necessary household goods for the family to live a comfortable day to day life.

The client is the caregiver for a family member with a chronic illness. The client's grandchildren lived in the home prior to the hurricane, however, have not been able to return to the home with the client because the home is not safe enough for children. During the hurricane, the home's back side of the roof came off, which caused everything in the home to be destroyed. FEMA funds received as well as the client's savings were used to pay for tools and supplies as well as to repair the roof. The client's savings were also used to pay for hotel rooms while the home was still unlivable after the FEMA hotel allowance ran out. FEMA sent Texas prep to continue repairs that FEMA funds did not cover. Texas Prep installed toilets, window units, provided a mini fridge, and a portable burner.

SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD HURRICANE HARVEY

They also fixed the walkway and ramp. Client developed a recovery plan to first get funding for float, tape, and paint supplies and labor on interior walls of home. This step was completed thanks to funding by the Victoria County Long Term Recovery Group. Next in the recovery plan was to get funding for supplies and labor/installation of plywood, and laminate flooring of interior of home. This step was completed thanks to funding by the Victoria Long Term Recovery Group Warehouse for laminate flooring supplies and the Diocese of Victoria for costs of remaining supplies and labor. The last step of the client's recovery plan was to get funding for the replacement of lost/damaged furniture and appliances. This was funded by the Diocese of Victoria, House in a Box program as well as the Salvation Army. The repairs made to the home have enabled the client's grandchildren to move back into the home with the family.



WALKING OUR STRESS AWAY

AUTHORED BY DEBORAH AGUIRRE

At times, it gets crazy in our office with clients calling and visiting, our supervisor sending last minute requests and all the other multitasking challenges that come with the job. Sometimes you just have to walk away from it.... literally!

Here at Team Jefferson, we have started our little walking club in which we get together and go walking during our break. We find that it's the best way to de-stress and stay in shape. Since we are stationed next to a hospital we also take advantage of their stairs.

We invite you, no matter where you are located to join us and walk away from your work! 5-10-minute walks will make all the difference in the world and you never know, you might just start dropping a size or two!





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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!



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

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



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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.svdpdisaster.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@svdpdisaster.org
Manager, Volunteer Resources and Deployments

For those of you interested in volunteering, please stop by our website at www.svdpdisaster.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.svdpdisaster.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.

