

A person wearing yellow rubber boots is walking through shallow floodwater. The water is rippling around the boots, and the scene is captured from a low angle, focusing on the lower legs and feet. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey, suggesting a cloudy sky or a misty environment.

# **DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER**

**FLOOD PREPAREDNESS  
IN FOCUS**

**MARCH 21, 2019**



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# SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD

## HURRICANE HARVEY

### HOME FOR A HERO, AUTHORED BY LOUIS MEDINA

Client Sammie Jones is well known in his home town of Beaumont for his smooth moves and great smile. Yes, Sammie likes to cut the rug and he's good at it! Like so many of the folks in the Texas Gulf Coast Region, Sammie was also impacted by Hurricane Harvey. His home received up to 4' water and began to shift to a point where his floor began to cave in. Mr. Jones, a Vietnam War veteran was no stranger to resiliency and did not immediately seek assistance with his situation as felt there were other that needed more help than him.

Fortunately for Mr. Jones, he was referred to St Vincent de Paul Disaster Services and partnered with Disaster Case Managers, Bessie Coleman. With the assistance of her fellow colleague, Deborah Parker, they recognized that Mr. Jones was a US Veteran and that he could possibly qualify for Habitat for Humanity's Veteran's Rebuild Program. Immediately, Mr. Jones was referred and with grant funding from Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross, Wells Fargo and Exxon Mobil, Habitat was able to demolish the existing residence and built a new home at a value of approximately \$40k for him that is elevated 4' high off the ground! Wheelers for the Wounded stepped in to assist with installations and painting and St Vincent de Paul assisted by providing \$3200 worth of household furnishings through their House-in-a Box program. A ceremony was held to bless Mr. Jones and his new home and folks from around the community attended. I hear that every so often when the neighbors walk by his home, they here feet tapping to the sound of joy!



# GALVESTON COUNTY RESIDENT FULLY RECOVERED AFTER HARVEY



Our client is an 87-year-old widow living on a fixed income. She was planning on living her life in her home she and her husband had shared. Then Harvey came and caused major damaged to her home.

She did receive funds from FEMA for repairs and completed all major repairs with the funds. Her funds were exhausted, and she still needed kitchen cabinets, her bathroom repaired, and other minor repairs. DCM Tiffany Rich with Disaster Services SVDP met with the client and knew she had to assist her with completing her home.

She referred her to the Fuller Center for Housing, Disaster Rebuilders for assistance. This group accepted this client and completed all her repairs and found a plumbing leak and repaired it. The volunteers from AmeriCorps were involved in this project.

On February 22nd, DCM, Tiffany Rich, and DCM Supervisor, Susan Reno, attended the home dedication. The client's Pastor blessed the house. The volunteers from the Fuller Center and AmeriCorps plus family and friends were there. The client thanked the Tiffany for all she had done to assist her with her recovery and she felt truly blessed.

# LONG TERM DISASTER RECOVERY - WAYNE COUNTY REPORT - MARCH 2019



Long Term Disaster Recovery – Wayne County was formed following Hurricane Floyd in 1999. After closing in 2002, we were reactivated in response to Hurricane Matthew in the fall of 2016. In September 2018, another major storm, Hurricane Florence, descended upon Goldsboro and surrounding Wayne County once again, fortunately causing less damage in our area than Matthew. It did affect local residents, many of whom were still recovering from the earlier storm. We are pleased to report that after two and a half years of assisting survivors with their recovery from two different disasters, we are now ready to close our doors.

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# LONG TERM DISASTER RECOVERY - WAYNE COUNTY REPORT - MARCH 2019



We have provided direct assistance to over 340 survivors during this time. In addition to rebuilding and repairing homes, we have replaced HVAC units and major appliances, furniture and furnishings. A variety of other unmet needs, including rental, utility, and security deposits have been covered. We have also provided counseling, advice, referrals to countless agencies, especially mental health, in addition to assistance with complicated FEMA, CDBG and HUD forms. We often provided a shoulder to cry on.



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# LONG TERM DISASTER RECOVERY - WAYNE COUNTY REPORT - MARCH 2019



Strategic collaboration has enabled us to stretch our dollars and to use the strengths and expertise of each group. We have partnered with faith based organizations like North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM), St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Charities, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, The Salvation Army, and Lutheran Disaster Services. NCBM alone contributed thousands of hours of skilled labor to repair and rebuild homes for 52 homeowners in Wayne County. Grants from national, regional and local contributions as well as in kind services have made it possible to distribute \$220,000 in direct assistance to worthy families. Special thanks to major contributions from The Salvation Army, The American Red Cross, United Way of Wayne County, The North Carolina Community Foundation, The Community Foundation of Wayne County, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the faith community.

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# LONG TERM DISASTER RECOVERY - WAYNE COUNTY REPORT - MARCH 2019



Long term recovery groups know their work is done when requests for their assistance have dwindled and there is no longer need to seek funding. Since FEMA buyouts, CDBG funds and other federal funds are being released to Matthew survivors and our existing funding will soon be exhausted, we will have completed service to the last of our survivors by the end of March 2019. As we close the doors, we know we have done our best to assist survivors as they move forward in recovery.



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# LONG TERM DISASTER RECOVERY - WAYNE COUNTY REPORT - MARCH 2019



Three stories of Wayne County residents that

LTDRWC has assisted:

A blind survivor lived in a mobile home that she had received from FEMA after Hurricane Floyd in 1999. It was located in a low lying area. While the home did not flood, water created a mold situation that was unhealthy. Our LTRG bought a used mobile home and moved it to her lot. Our partner organizations assisted with temporary lodging expense during the transition as well as plumbing, HVAC, and other costs to create a safe, sanitary, secure home.

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# LONG TERM DISASTER RECOVERY - WAYNE COUNTY REPORT - MARCH 2019



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# LONG TERM DISASTER RECOVERY - WAYNE COUNTY REPORT - MARCH 2019



The home of a family of three adults, all on disability, was flooded and the cost to repair it was beyond their resources. FEMA had placed a manufactured housing unit (MHU) on high ground of their property. After living in the MHU rent free for 18 months, FEMA required them to purchase the home or begin to pay rent. LTRGWC worked with the homeowner to help with the rent until the home could be purchased, with the LTRG paying 2/3 of the cost of the home. (The survivor was able to pay 1/3.) The home is pictured below with the MHU in the background. A closer view of the MHU is included as well:

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# LONG TERM DISASTER RECOVERY - WAYNE COUNTY REPORT - MARCH 2019



Below is the home of a single mother who is raising her disabled grandchild. She first came to our attention over a year ago, but contact with her was lost, as often happens with survivors in transition. In recent months we were able to reconnect and assist with their recovery which is now complete.



# LONG TERM DISASTER RECOVERY - WAYNE COUNTY REPORT - MARCH 2019

We thank all of you who have joined us in our mission to help each disaster survivor return to their “new normal”. Each of you has been instrumental to our success. To those who are continuing disaster recovery efforts, bless you as you continue your good work in North Carolina.



Very respectfully,

Debbie Jones

Debbie Jones, Director

Barbara Stiles, Chair

Barbara Stiles

Long Term Disaster Recovery – Wayne County  
“Working together...Rebuilding homes and lives”

# MARCH IS FLOOD SAFETY MONTH

Failing to evacuate flooded areas, entering flood waters, or remaining after a flood has passed can result in injury or death. Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Floods may:

- Result from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges, and overflows of dams and other water systems.

- Develop slowly or quickly – Flash floods can come with no warning.

- Cause outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings, and create landslides.

**IF YOU ARE UNDER A FLOOD WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY**

- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water.
- Determine how best to protect yourself based on the type of flooding.
- Evacuate if told to do so.
- Move to higher ground or a higher floor.
- Stay where you are.



# MARCH IS FLOOD SAFETY MONTH

## PREPARE NOW

Know types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center for information.

Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

If flash flooding is a risk in your location, then monitor potential signs, such as heavy rain.

Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.

Gather supplies in case you have to leave immediately, or if services are cut off. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.

Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect and can protect the life you've built. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.

Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.



# MARCH IS FLOOD SAFETY MONTH

## SURVIVE DURING

Depending on where you are, and the impact and the warning time of flooding, go to the safe location that you previously identified.

If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Never drive around barricades.

Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.

-Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.

-Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown!

-Stay off bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.

-If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, then stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, then seek refuge on the roof.

-If trapped in a building, then go to its highest level. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising floodwater. Go on the roof only if necessary. Once there, signal for help.



# MARCH IS FLOOD SAFETY MONTH BE SAFE AFTER



Listen to authorities for information and instructions. Return home only when authorities say it is safe. Avoid driving, except in emergencies. Snakes and other animals may be in your house. Wear heavy gloves and boots during clean up. Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock. Avoid wading in floodwater, which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water. Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery **ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.

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MARCH IS FLOOD SAFETY MONTH  
RESOURCES

[\*\*Flood Safety Social Media Toolkit\*\*](#) (toolkit)

[\*\*Flood Information Sheet\*\*](#) (PDF)

[\*\*National Weather Service Weather Ready Nation Spring\*\*](#)

[\*\*Safety Outreach Materials\*\*](#) (link)

[\*\*American Red Cross\*\*](#) (link)

[\*\*The National Insurance Program\*\*](#) (link)

[\*\*Six Things to Know Before a Disaster\*\*](#) (video)

[\*\*When the Cloud Forms\*\*](#) (video)

[\*\*How to Prepare for a Flood\*\*](#) (PDF)

[\*\*Flood Playbook\*\*](#) (PDF)

[\*\*Flood Creative Materials\*\*](#) (PDF)

[\*\*National Creative Resources\*\*](#) (PDF)

[\*\*Answers to Questions about Flood Insurance\*\*](#)

[\*\*National Flood Insurance Program Summary of Coverage\*\*](#)

[\*\*Your Homeowners Insurance Does Not Cover Flood\*\*](#)

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# FOR MORE INFORMATION



Please stop by our newly updated website: [www.svdpcdisaster.org](http://www.svdpcdisaster.org)

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

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Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/DisasterServicesCorp/](http://www.facebook.com/DisasterServicesCorp/)

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

Monique Brent, [mbrent@svdpcdisaster.org](mailto:mbrent@svdpcdisaster.org)  
Manager, Volunteer Resources and Deployments

**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.**

For those of you interested in volunteering, please stop by our website at [www.svdpcdisaster.org](http://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](http://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.

