



DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

**H U R R I C A N E
P R E P A R E D N E S S M O N T H**

C O N T I N U E D I N F O C U S

M A Y 1 6 , 2 0 1 9

DISASTER SERVICES CORPORATION

CEO UPDATE

As a founding member of National VOAD, 49 years ago, we are thrilled to share the outcomes of our time at the National VOAD Conference in Nashville, TN. The theme of the Conference was: “Together we Amplify” and there were over 700 Voluntary Agency and State and Federal partners in attendance.

Under the leadership of Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, Disaster Services Corporation, St. Vincent de Paul USA is recognized as the leading agency in disaster relief and case management. Our staff also exhibited tremendous leadership in the National VOAD Committees they sit on: Monique Brent represented DSC as a member of the NVOAD Volunteer Management Committee. Kevin Peach was elected secretary of the Advocacy Committee, nominated as chair of the Communications Committee, and appointed to serve on the Donations Management Committee. Anthony Pluchino serves as Subject Matter Expert on the Disaster Case Management Committee. Marie Pluchino serves on the Advocacy Committee. Jim Butler serves on the NVOAD Housing Committee. Additionally, the following Vincentians were not at the Conference, but serve on Committees. Gail Bertrand serves on the Long Term Recovery Committee. Tom Link on the Spiritual and Emotional Care Committee.

We had great representation at the NVOAD 2019 Conference. Ralph and Ann Hassel, along with Monique Brent and Jim Butler represented DSC in the Exhibit Hall and manned our booth.

Elizabeth Disco-Shearer spoke on a panel discussing Project Comeback Texas, was a luncheon MC for the presentation on climate change, presented the Annual Financial Report to the member agencies and was nominated by her fellow Board members to serve another term as the Treasurer of NVOAD.

Team Rubicon received the NVOAD Member of the Year Award and acknowledged DSC during the awards ceremony for their support of Team Rubicon.

It was an outstanding Conference and many thanks to our entire DSC Team for all their contributions.

Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of National VOAD and we look forward to sharing our impact and contributions to our country in Phoenix, AZ.

DISASTER SERVICES CORPS
EXHIBITS AND ATTENDS THE NATIONAL VOAD
CONFERENCE IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



Our CEO Elizabeth Disco-Shearer shown above and to the left and our Board Chair and his wife, Ralph and Anne Hassel of Texas.

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Ms. Monique Brent, Manager of Volunteer Programs and Deployments shown exhibiting above along with our COO, Kevin Peach, and House in a Box Director, Jim Butler shown to the right.

MAY MONTHLY BLOG
OPEN YOUR HEART AND YOUR HOME
AUTHORED BY MARK PAWLOSKI OF AIRBNB

St. Vincent de Paul is partnering with Airbnb to house disaster relief paid staff and volunteers. Airbnb's Open Homes program enables the community to offer free, temporary housing for those who are displaced and for relief workers who have deployed as part of the disaster recovery process.

Through a combination of donated travel credits and access to the Open Homes platform, St. Vincent de Paul's disaster volunteers will be able to stay close to communities impacted by disaster and perform critical disaster case management services.

Airbnb's mission is to create a world where anyone can belong anywhere, and the Open Homes program looks to solve the "anyone" part of their belonging ethos. Whether it's neighbors evacuating or relief workers deployed to help, a home gives people much-needed space to figure out what's next. Hosts can play an important role in their community's response and recovery — just by offering their extra space. Since 2012, hosts have opened their doors to people affected by disasters all over the world.

Click the link to continue reading our guest blog: <https://www.svdpcdisaster.org/blog/open-your-heart-and-your-home>



Open your heart and home to people who need it the most.

Airbnb's 5-year goal is to provide free short-term housing to 100,000 people in need. Join us by donating your home and help make a difference.

Refugees

People from around the world are forced to leave the countries they call home because it is no longer safe for them to stay. Join the community of people who are opening their homes for free to refugees.

[Learn more](#)



Evacuees

Natural disasters happen around the globe and are responsible for displacing people every year. Join by opening your home for free to your neighbours in need.

[Learn more](#)



THE BELL KEEPS RINGING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY!
BY LOUIS MEDINA



The folks over at Jefferson County are competing with the local church bells by ringing their recovery bell frantically as client recovery goals are met. The biggest bell-ringer at Team Jefferson is Deborah Aguirre!

Deborah's latest feat was having four cases approved at the local unmet needs meeting without presenting her cases! The funders were so impressed with the client narratives she submitted that all 4 of her cases were approved before she stood up to present!

These 4 families are blessed to have Deborah on their side. The next time you come out to Jefferson County, listen for the that frantic bell, as it most likely Deborah ringing her clients back into their recovery!



HURRICANE HARVEY PROGRAM EXPANDS



A Photo of Disaster Case Manager's, David Hancock and Joshua Schamber hanging our SVdP sign for the Orange County office.

SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD

FLORIDA HURRICANE RECOVERY

The client is a sweet lady who is 83 years young. Though she lived in an evacuated zone, departing her home was not an option. She was sitting in the living room when water started pouring through the window and wall in her living room. The client used buckets and pans to catch the water for damaging the floor. The client was denied for financial assistance through FEMA and SBA loan. The client didn't have homeowner insurance and lives on fixed income from her retirement. We were able to get have \$6,500 from America Red Cross and \$2,245 from Salvation Army to repair roof, wall, windows and gutters that were damaged. A photo shown to the right is the home under repair.



DISASTER CASE MANAGER
LATORA CARRUTH OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA



I am a Disaster Case Manager in the Sarasota, Florida area but native of the Indiana (Big Ten Nation Stand Up!!!!). I've worked in the social services fields as case manager for over 20 years in multiple areas. I started out working with residential treatment facility with young adults. Before moving to Florida, I worked with foster parents and kids. I love people to become the best versions of themselves. Being part of that is greatness reward. I would say the best part of being a DCM is seeing the light or hope in people's eyes when realizes its organization that are focus on helping Hurricane Irma survivors. It's great feeling when see a family or person become whole again. I love the game of football go Michigan and Colts. I enjoy making co-workers day by hitting a couple high tones.

SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD HURRICANE HARVEY

Our client resides in Orange County and was severely affected by Hurricane Harvey. Her home was destroyed. She and her spouse had to evacuate and relocated with family for a short period. Upon the first initial notification of the Client, she and her spouse received FEMA assistance had recently purchased a used mobile home. She was in need of a refrigerator and queen size mattress and box spring to consider recovered. This Client was referred to House in a Box and The Salvation Army. She was humble and in tears to see all the household goods from the House in a Box and also pleased to receive the brand new refrigerator from TSA. This completed the Client's recovery from Hurricane Harvey.



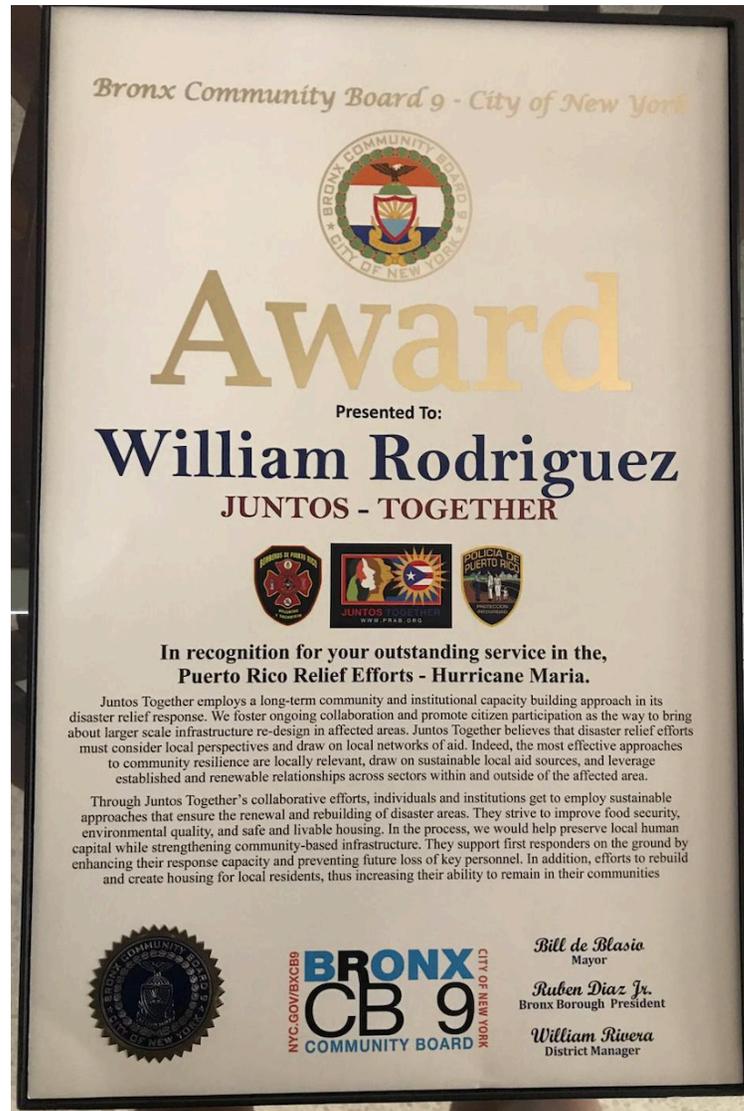
SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD

HURRICANE HARVEY



My client was living safe and secure as a renter prior to hurricane Harvey in Orange Texas. Her home sustained 3 feet of water and she was rescued by a boat by the Cajun Navy. She went to a shelter for 2 weeks before she was able to return home. When she returned, her home was left in ruins and the landlord was nowhere to be found. Two months later, she finally heard from him and he was not going to move back to Orange or make repairs on the property. Client became homeless and went to an unsanitary homeless shelter in Fort Worth Texas where she stayed for 1 year. In October 2018, Client was still homeless, but heard about a job opportunity in Orange at a motel. My client went to work there with her work as payment for the rent. Client called 211 and signed up with SVDP for assistance. I was assigned to her case. It was a complicated situation, but I was determined to help this client. I asked my client to find an apartment that she can afford with her fixed income and get the documentation so I can possibly assist her with the deposit and first month of rent. In January, my client found an apartment and brought in the lease agreement and supporting documents. I sent in a request for \$1,149 to the SVDP fund which will cover the deposit and first month of rent. The landlord received the check in February and client is now in an apartment where she is safe and secure. On March 9th, client was able to pick up her furniture; later that evening, she called me and stated that it will be the first time since Hurricane Harvey that she will sleep in a bed that is her own. Client called multiple times over the next few days thanking me for getting her the help that she desperately needed.

VINCENTIAN
WILLIAM RODRIGUEZ EARNS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD - CITY OF NEW YORK



MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH CREATE A FAMILY PLAN

In an emergency, every second counts- that's why it's crucial to have a game plan, and why this year's National Preparedness Month theme is "Don't Wait Communicate."

The Red Cross encourages all Americans to develop a family game plan. Get started using the steps below!

[Check with your local chapter for trainings and events in your community.](#)

Steps to Make a Family Plan (click the links below):

[Download Apps](#)

[Make a Plan](#)

[Get a Kit](#)



Hurricane Preparedness Checklist from Red Cross

https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness___Disaster_Recovery/Disaster_Preparedness/Hurricane/Hurricane.pdf

Want to be Prepared for an Emergency? Be Red Cross Ready

<https://youtu.be/MzaGbHkndts>

MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH ARE YOU RED CROSS READY?

To be Red Cross Ready Means:

- Assembling an emergency preparedness kit.
- Creating a household evacuation plan that includes your pets.
- Staying informed about your community's risk and response plans.
- Educating your family on how to use the Safe and Well website.
- Download the Emergency App for iPhone >> or for Android >>



MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

Protecting Your Family

- Talk with your family about what to do if a hurricane strikes. Discussing hurricanes ahead of time helps reduce fear, particularly for younger children
- Ensure that every member of your family carries a [Safe and Well wallet card](#).
- Make sure you have access to NOAA radio broadcasts:
 - Find an [online NOAA radio station](#)
 - Search for a NOAA radio app in the Apple Store >> or Google Play>>
 - Purchase a battery-powered or hand-crank NOAA radio in the [Red Cross Store](#)
- Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box. You may need quick, easy access to these documents. Keep them in a safe place less likely to be damaged if a hurricane causes flooding. Take pictures on a phone and keep copies of important documents and files on a flashdrive that you can carry with you on your house or car keys.
- Prepare a [pet emergency kit](#) for your companion animals.



MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

PROTECT YOUR HOME

Protecting Your Home

- Protect windows with permanent storm shutters or invest in one-half inch marine plywood that is pre-cut to fit your doors and windows.
- Identify a place to store lawn furniture, toys, gardening tools and trash cans (away from stairs and exits) to prevent them from being moved by high winds and possibly hurting someone.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts to prevent flooding and unnecessary pressure on the awnings.
- Remember that standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding but flood insurance does. Get information at www.FloodSmart.gov.



MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH RIGHT BEFORE YOU GO

Right Before:

- Listen to local area radio, [NOAA radio](#) or TV stations for the latest information and updates.
- [Be prepared to evacuate](#) quickly and know your routes and destinations. Find a local [emergency shelter](#).
- Check your [emergency kit](#) and replenish any items missing or in short supply, especially medications or other medical supplies. Keep it nearby.

Then, If You Can, Do This:

- Fill plastic bottles with clean water for drinking.
- Fill bathtubs and sinks with water for flushing the toilet or washing the floor or clothing.
- Fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.
- Turn off propane tanks and unplug small appliances.
- Bring in anything that can be picked up by the wind, such as bicycles and patio furniture.
- If You Still Have Time, Do This

If you still have time:

- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities to prevent damage to your home or within the community. If you shut your gas off, a professional is required to turn it back on.
- Unplug small appliances to reduce potential damage from power surges that may occur.
- If You Have Pets or Livestock

If you have Pets or Livestock:

- Consider a precautionary evacuation of your animals, especially any large or numerous animals. Waiting until the last minute could be fatal for them and dangerous for you.
- Where possible, move livestock to higher ground. If using a horse or other trailer to evacuate your animals, move sooner rather than later.
- Bring your companion animals indoors and maintain direct control of them. Be sure that your [pet emergency kit](#) is ready to go in case of evacuation.



MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH DURING A HURRICANE



Staying Safe During a Hurricane

- Stay indoors.
- Don't walk on beaches, riverbanks or in flood waters.
- Use flashlights in the dark if the power goes out. Do NOT use candles.
- Continue listening to local area radio, [NOAA radio](#) or TV stations for the latest information and updates.
- Avoid contact with floodwater. It may be contaminated with sewage or contain dangerous insects or animals.
- Turn off the power and water mains if instructed to do so by local authorities.

Staying Safe Outdoors

- Don't walk, swim or drive through floodwater. Just six inches of fast-flowing water can knock you over and two feet will float a car.
 - If caught on a flooded road with rapidly rising waters, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground.
 - Don't walk on beaches or riverbanks.
 - Don't allow children to play in or near flood water.
 - Avoid contact with floodwater. It may be contaminated with sewage or contain dangerous insects or animals.
 - Stay out of areas subject to flooding. Underpasses, dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc. can become filled with water.
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MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH AFTER A HURRICANE



After a Hurricane:

- Let friends and family know you're safe - Register yourself as safe on the Safe and Well website
- If evacuated, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Continue listening to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for updated information and instructions.
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding.

Caring For Yourself & Loved Ones:

- Pay attention to how you and your loved ones are experiencing and handling stress. Promote emotional recovery by following these tips.
- Do not use water that could be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, make ice or make baby formula.
- Watch animals closely and keep them under your direct control.
- Help people who require additional assistance—infants, elderly people, those without transportation, large families who may need additional help in an emergency situation, people with disabilities, and the people who care for them.

Returning Home Safely:

- Stay out of any building that has water around it.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines. Report them immediately to the power company.
- Follow these tips for inspecting your home's structure and utilities & systems after a hurricane.
- Take pictures of home damage, both of the buildings and its contents, for insurance purposes.

Cleaning and Repairing Your Home:

- Wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and rubber boots, and be cautious when cleaning up.
- Learn more about how to clean up after a hurricane, including the supplies you'll need, how to deal with contaminated food and water, and how to repair water damage.
- Don't just repair your home, build in hurricane-resistant features to help protect against future storms:
- Secure double entry doors at the top and bottom.
- Strengthen garage doors to improve wind resistance, particularly double-wide garage doors.
- Select trees that are not as subject to uprooting to replace any damaged ones. A gardening or landscaping professional can give you excellent advice.
- If your home has been significantly damaged and will require rebuilding parts or all of it, consider building a safe room.

Ask a Professional to:

- Ensure roof sheathing is properly installed.
- Ensure end gables are securely fastened to the rest of the roof.
- Fasten the roof to the walls with hurricane straps.
- Elevate your home if it's near the coast and subject to flooding from storm surge.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK MATERIALS

- [Hurricane Seasonal Preparedness Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [Hurricane Information Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Six Things to Know Before a Disaster \(video\)](#)
- [National Hurricane Center \(link\)](#)
- [National Weather Service Hurricane Safety \(link\)](#)
- [When the Waves Swell – Hurricane Animated \(Video\)](#)
- [How to Prepare for a Hurricane \(PDF\)](#)
- [Hurricane Playbook \(PDF\)](#)
- [Prepare Your Organization for a Hurricane Playbook \(PDF\)](#)
- [Communication Tools \(PDF\)](#)
- [Hurricane Creative Materials \(PDF\)](#)
- [National Creative Resources \(PDF\)](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION



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

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 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.

