

# DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER



HURRICANE  
SEASON

HURRICANE  
PREPAREDNESS WEEK

IN FOCUS

MAY 9, 2019

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

The Disaster Services Corporation attended and exhibited at the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Conference in Nashville, TN this week. There were over 700 in attendance from around the United States. In addition, there were representatives from Japan and Canada that are in the process of starting a NVOAD. SVDP had a booth at the NVOAD Conference and we were recognized by Team Rubicon for our outstanding support of their organization. Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO of DSC SVDP-USA, was the MC for Wednesday's Plenary Luncheon and introduced Deke Ardnt. Deke is the Chief of NOAA's Climate Monitoring Branch.

Disaster Services SVDP-USA has representation on a number of NVOAD Committees and is recognized as a National Leader in Disaster Case Management across the US.



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Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, our CEO, serves on the board of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. The board is shown here at the annual NVOAD convention in Nashville.

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Our CEO Elizabeth Disco-Shearer shown above 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 above.

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](#)



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## 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 and 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.

# SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD

## HURRICANE HARVEY

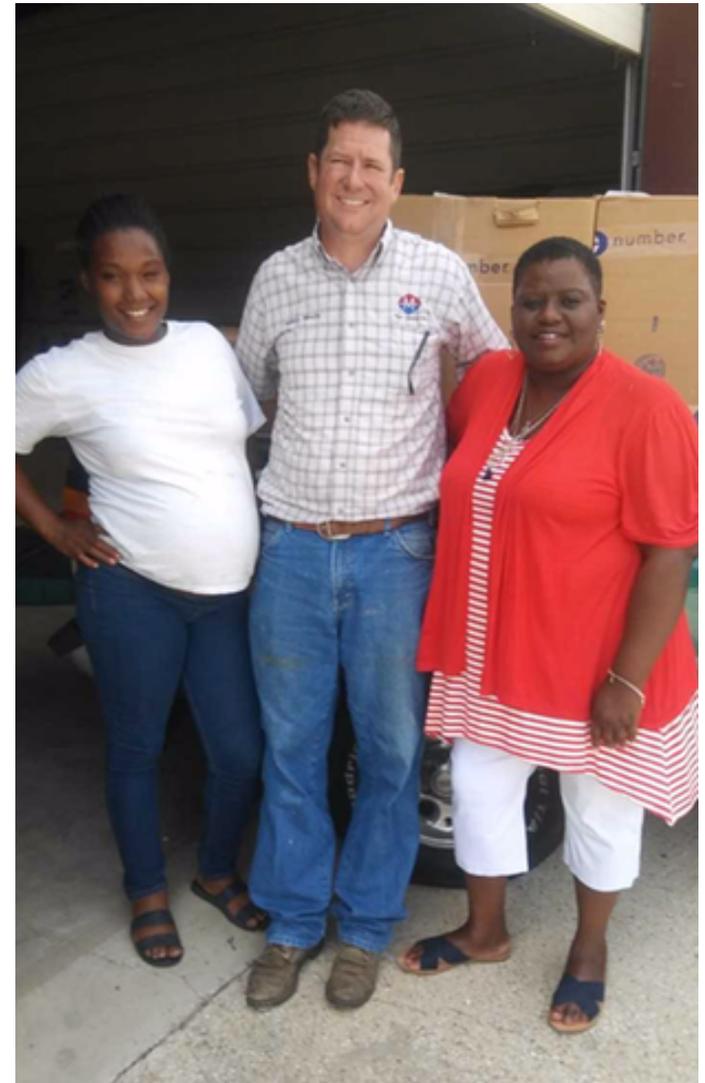
### **A Grateful New Mommy**

**By Bessie Coleman**

I noticed that Ms. White was a bit anxious when she arrived for her interview. I asked her if she was feeling ok and she said yes, I'm just in real need for a new mattress set. Ms. White was 7 months pregnant and had been sleeping on a used, bumpy mattress that was uncomfortable and made it difficult for her to sleep.

Ms. White is a renter who lost everything due to Harvey. She was grateful to have the used mattress set donated to her but was at her wits end since she was becoming more and more uncomfortable as the days passed on. I immediately completed her intake and began calling local resources.

Thankfully the folks from the local Rotary Club responded to the need and provided Ms. White a new mattress set with a retail value of \$500.00! The new mommy-to-be is grateful as she can now sleep soundly.



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# MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over warm ocean waters and move toward land. Potential threats from hurricanes include powerful winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, tornadoes, and landslides. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. The Pacific hurricane season runs May 15 to November 30. Hurricanes:

Can happen along any U.S. coast or in any territory in the Atlantic or Pacific oceans.

Can affect areas more than 100 miles inland.

Are most active in September.

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

- Determine how best to protect yourself from high winds and flooding.
- Evacuate if told to do so.
- Take refuge in a designated storm shelter, or an interior room for high winds.
- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.
- Turn Around, Don't Drown! Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.



# MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

## **Prepare NOW**

- Know your area's risk of hurricanes.
- 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 you are at risk for flash flooding, watch for warning signs such as heavy rain.
- Practice going to a safe shelter for high winds, such as a FEMA safe room or ICC 500 storm shelter. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room in a sturdy building on the lowest level that is not subject to flooding.
- Based on your location and community plans, make your own plans for evacuation or sheltering in place.
- Become familiar with your evacuation zone, the evacuation route, and shelter locations.
- Gather needed supplies for at least three days. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.
- Keep important documents in a safe place or create password-protected digital copies.
- Protect your property. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves in plumbing to prevent backups. Consider hurricane shutters. Review insurance policies.



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# MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

## **When a hurricane is 36 hours from arriving**

- Turn on your TV or radio in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include food and water sufficient for at least three days, medications, a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Plan how to communicate with family members if you lose power. For example, you can call, text, email or use social media. Remember that during disasters, sending text messages is usually reliable and faster than making phone calls because phone lines are often overloaded.
- Review your evacuation zone, evacuation route and shelter locations. Plan with your family. You may have to leave quickly so plan ahead.
- Keep your car in good working condition, and keep the gas tank full; stock your vehicle with emergency supplies and a change of clothes.
- If you have NFIP flood insurance, your policy may cover up to \$1000 in loss avoidance measures, like sandbags and water pumps, to protect your insured property. You should keep copies of all receipts and a record of the time spent performing the work. They should be submitted to your insurance adjuster when you file a claim to be reimbursed. Visit [www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/137860](http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/137860) to learn more.



# MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

## **When a hurricane is 18-36 hours from arriving**

Bookmark your city or county website for quick access to storm updates and emergency instructions.

Bring loose, lightweight objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture, garbage cans); anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks); and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on the building.

Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" exterior grade or marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install.



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# MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

## **When a hurricane is 6-18 hours from arriving**

- Turn on your TV/radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Charge your cell phone now so you will have a full battery in case you lose power.
- When a hurricane is 6 hours from arriving
- If you're not in an area that is recommended for evacuation, plan to stay at home or where you are and let friends and family know where you are.
- Close storm shutters, and stay away from windows. Flying glass from broken windows could injure you.
- Turn your refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to be able to check the food temperature when the power is restored.
- Turn on your TV/radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.



# MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

## **Survive DURING**

- If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Do not drive around barricades.
- If sheltering during high winds, go to a FEMA safe room, ICC 500 storm shelter, or a small, interior, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor that is not subject to flooding.
- If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.
- Listen for current emergency information and instructions.
- Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery outdoors **ONLY** and away from windows.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown! Just six inches of fast-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.



# MAY IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

## **Be Safe AFTER**

- Listen to authorities for information and special instructions.
- Be careful during clean-up. Wear protective clothing and work with someone else.
- 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 electricity at the main breaker or fuse box to prevent electric shock.
- Avoid wading in flood water, which can contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.
- Save phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.
- Document any property damage with photographs. Contact your insurance company for assistance.



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# 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 \(PDF\)](#)
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# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK MATERIALS

## *In Case of Hurricane*



*Stock food, supplies,  
and medicine*



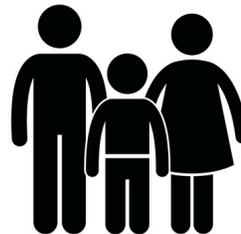
*Protect your  
home*



*Stay on the news*



*Plan evacuation route*



*Keep your  
family close*



*Get a bicycle*



*Unplug propane  
tank*



*Keep a  
list of  
important  
contact*



*Check  
phone  
battery*



*Plan ahead*

# FOR MORE INFORMATION



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

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

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

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@svdpdisaster.org](mailto:mbrent@svdpdisaster.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.svdpdisaster.org](http://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](http://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.

