

A young girl with curly hair is smiling and holding a sign. In the background, other children and an adult are visible at a school event.

DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

OCTOBER 19, 2018

*Hurricane
Relief*

SVDP-USA

DISASTER SERVICES



Please donate to our general disaster fund. Without your support we cannot continue to educate, travel, connect partners, and provide aid to our impacted communities.

WWW.SVDPDISASTER.ORG



www.svdpdisaster.org

CEO UPDATE

ELIZABETH DISCO-SHEARER



This past week we have seen the power of Mother Nature in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael and now Texas is experiencing record rainfall and flooding. Each month Disaster Services posts preparedness tips and I am hopeful that the information that what we are sharing on social media is helping our Vincentians and others throughout the country. Take a moment to think about what you would do if a disaster hit your town, your Parish, and your home. Do you have all your legal and medical documents stored on a flash drive or in the cloud? Does your Conference and Council have a Disaster Plan? These are all important preparedness actions.

In regards to Hurricane Michael Recovery, Disaster Services is activating Parish Recovery Centers in the panhandle of Florida and deploying trained Rapid Response Teams. If you would like to volunteer and become part of our team, please go to www.svdpcdisaster.org and fill out our webform for an interview.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our mission during these challenging times.

DISASTER SERVICES CORP., SVDP-USA AND THE MEANING OF COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP: COMBINING SERVICE AND FAITH AUTHORED BY KEVIN PEACH

Year after year in the United States, disasters have become increasingly more prevalent. The 2017 hurricane season was the most disastrous in our nation's history, affecting 8% of the U.S. population (25 million people). Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supported 59 major disaster declarations and 16 emergency declarations for 17 named storms.

We have learned a few important lessons that it is now time to apply:

- 1.) FEMA has limits. Disaster preparedness, response and recovery are responsibilities that we all share. The nation currently does not have a true culture of preparedness for future disasters. That must change.
- 2.) FEMA and communities lacked situational awareness of critical commodities that resided in their own backyards and surrounding communities.
- 3.) Private sector companies and philanthropic organizations did not know where to donate or what was needed by impacted communities.

A positive, strong lesson learned, however, is that Americans are resilient. There has been strong support from the private sector, specifically our community-based and faith-based organizations. Disaster response and emergency management are not only the responsibility of government but also every community. As FEMA Administrator, Brock Long, explains "Everyone – whether you are a public servant, a member of a family, or a business that is part of a community – must work together to make this happen, FEMA alone cannot accomplish these goals."

To continue reading the blog: <https://www.svdpcorp.org/blog/disaster-services-corp-svdp-usa-and-meaning-community-stewardship-combining-service-and-faith>



Brock Long, FEMA Administrator (first from the right) listens to Maj. General Hoyer discuss economic recovery in WV.

HURRICANE MICHAEL



The Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA is in communication with the respective councils and conferences, as well as the Bishop's office on the ground. Assessments will be made once the first responders have departed and the area is safe to enter. We have a business continuity plan in place for our DCM Program in Florida. Martha Desposito, our South East Regional Disaster Chair, is located in Pensacola, Florida. We will be monitoring evacuation needs and then relief needs. Please consider donating to our disaster relief fund at: svdpdisaster.org to support our efforts in the long term recovery in the impacted communities.

JESSICA J. DURAN
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Jessica is a young Hispanic lady who used to live in Chicago. After an announcement from her priest during mass, she decided to answer to God's call on serving others. She volunteers in Victoria, TX on SVDP P-RACS and stayed there for a month, later she was transfer to different states to continue with her service. Jessica decided to change her life and dedicate to serve others by moving to Texas and accept a position as a case manager. She is really happy and blessed by her decision as she believes it is God's plan for her life.



APRIL MARIE WILLIAMS
DISASTER CASE MANAGER - SUPERVISOR
NORTHERN, LA



Born in Alexandria, Louisiana
Bachelor of Science in Toxicology from The University of Louisiana at
Monroe

Master of Science in Forensic Science from Texas Tech University
Ms. Williams started her career with Disaster Services Corporation-
Society of St Vincent de Paul USA, Inc. a year ago, but has been
working within the disaster field for two years beginning her journey
with Louisiana Spirit as a Resource Coordinator by supporting and
aiding the Northeast Louisiana community recovering from the March
2016 flood. Ms. Williams is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc
where she continues to help the community of the Northeast Louisiana
through community service and raising awareness to mental health and
other issues relating to the community. Ms. Williams enjoys helping
others and being a voice for individuals who are unheard and unaware
what their next steps are after a disaster. Ms. Williams wants to
continue her work in the disaster field and also continue her education
in psychology to better provide mental health services to individuals
who need mental health care during and after a traumatic event.

ALICIA THOMAS
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
NORTHERN, LA

Born in Monroe, LA

Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with double minor in Sociology and Business Administration from the University of Louisiana at Monroe

Mrs. Thomas started her career within the Disaster Services field a year ago. Mrs. Thomas has 2 and a half years prior case management experience. She loves being able to assist clients to get the assistance that they need in order to get back into their homes.



VINCENT CROSS

DISASTER CASE MANAGER - SUPERVISOR

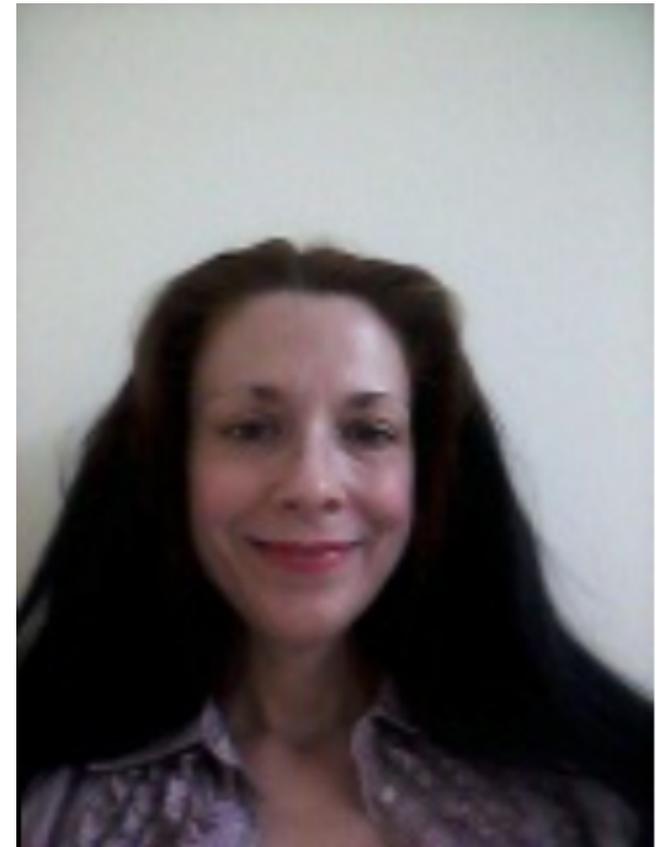
WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS



My name is Vincent Cross. I am A 46 year old father of 6 (Five boys and one girl). I am currently employed as a Disaster Case Manager for the Society of St. Vincent De Paul. I graduated from Runge High school in 1991. I spent Three years in the United States Army where I was stationed at Ft. Stewart Georgia. I received my Bachelors of Science from Columbia Southern University in Criminal Justice. I put my degree to use with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Parole Division for 5 years. Most recently I worked as a case manager for homeless veterans in my home town of San Antonio Texas; which was a very rewarding time of my life. I am looking forward to the challenges and rewards of being a Disaster Case Manager.

COLETTE POPP
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
WHARTON COUNTY, TX

Colette Popp is a Disaster Case Manager for Saint Vincent de Paul Disaster Services USA in Wharton County, Texas for Hurricane Harvey Disaster #4332. Colette lives in El Campo Texas. She is a teacher with specializations in Special-Ed, Reading, Early Childhood and Master of Ed in Supervision and Leadership. She is a caregiver by nature so nurturing others, nursing back to health family, friends, or anyone in need has always been a part of her life. When disaster hit her home county, it hit her heart. Drastic help was needed so she answered the calling of Wharton County. She is honored to be an integral part in the recovery of the rich history, tradition and community of Wharton County.



2018 IN REVIEW

U.S. 2018 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters January–September 2018



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the 11 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States from January–September 2018.

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MESSAGING EARTHQUAKE PREP IN FOCUS



**Get
Ready to
Shake
Out.**

DROP! COVER! HOLD ON!
October 18, 10:18 a.m.

**Shake
Out™**

Register at www.ShakeOut.org

The graphic features an orange background with large blue and white text. At the bottom, there are three icons in blue boxes: a person dropping, a person covering their head, and a person holding on to a table. Below these icons is the text 'DROP! COVER! HOLD ON!' and 'October 18, 10:18 a.m.'. To the right of the icons is the 'Shake Out' logo. At the bottom right, it says 'Register at www.ShakeOut.org'.

Many areas of the globe are prone to earthquakes (see links below)
You could be anywhere when an earthquake strikes: at home, at work, at school or even on vacation. Are you prepared to survive and to recover quickly?

Great ShakeOut earthquake drills are an opportunity to practice how to be safer during earthquakes: "Drop, Cover and Hold On."
ShakeOut also has been organized to encourage you, your community, your school, or your organization to update emergency plans and supplies, and to secure your space in order to prevent damage and injuries.

There are many ways for individuals, businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, community groups, government agencies, and others to participate in the ShakeOut, to get prepared for earthquakes, and to share what you're doing with others so they can do the same.

<https://www.shakeout.org/resources/>

SVDP-USA

DISASTER SERVICES



Please donate to our general disaster fund. Without your support we cannot continue to educate, travel, connect partners, and provide aid to our impacted communities.

WWW.SVDPDISASTER.ORG



www.svdpcdisaster.org

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.

