

DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

OCTOBER 25, 2018

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 I had the opportunity to take a spiritual retreat in the mountains of North Carolina.

The retreat focused on the importance of respecting nature and our environment. It was a good week and it made me think about what Disaster Services could do to help with mitigation plans and preparedness in the communities that we assist during disasters. So in our next few articles, we will focus on what individuals and communities can do to mitigate and prepare for disasters.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our relief efforts for Hurricanes Michael and Florence. Your contributions enable us to rebuild lives.



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.

THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEAN HURRICANE SEASON IS MOST POWERFUL ON RECORD THIS YEAR



The oceans near North America have been angry this year. When all the hurricanes and tropical storms that have formed in the Atlantic and eastern Pacific Oceans this year are added together, the 2018 hurricane season is the most active season ever recorded, Colorado State University meteorologist Phil Klotzbach announced Tuesday. Florence and Michael were the most destructive storms in the Atlantic, while the eastern Pacific featured several powerhouse storms, including Lane, Rosa, Sergio and now, Willa. To determine the strength of a given season, scientists use the "Accumulated Cyclone Energy" (ACE) index, which adds together the intensity and duration of all the tropical storms and hurricanes that formed.

To Continue Reading: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/10/23/hurricane-season-most-active-record-atlantic-pacific-combined/1741226002/>

HYGIENE KIT DRIVE

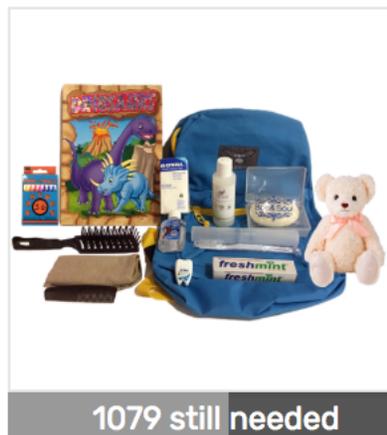
We are fundraising for hygiene kits. It is our goal to have more than 10,000 kits readily available for an immediate deployment. The Disaster Services Corp., St. Vincent de Paul USA is calling for your help to purchase hygiene kits for disaster victims!

Personal hygiene kits are always in need to keep up with the disasters in the U.S. alone! Through this campaign, we would like to raise 10,000 kits for disaster victims. These hygiene kits have been customized for Disaster Services Corp., St Vincent de Paul USA and include items for specific age groups (e.g., a backpack and stuffed animal for kids).

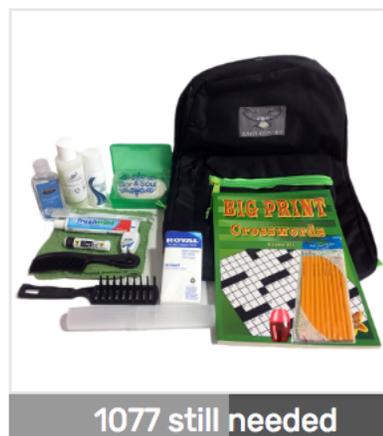
All kits purchased here will be shipped to a designated SVdP Disaster Services location for distribution to people in need. Click here to learn more or donate. Please note: You will need to create an account to complete your donation.

Thank you for your support and generosity!

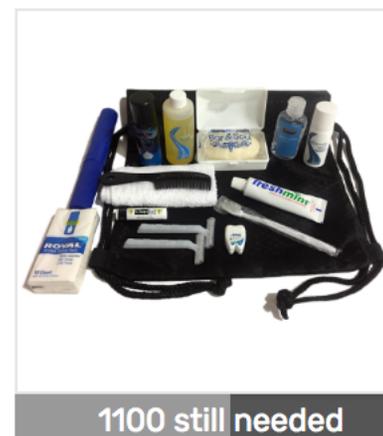
To support our efforts please visit:
<https://svdp-dwsorceall.roonga.com/svdphygienekits2018>



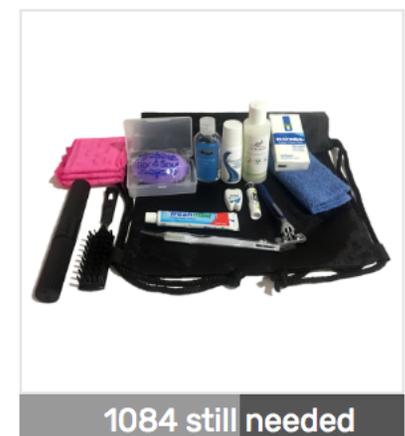
Child's Hygiene Kit
\$ 15.00



Youth Hygiene Kit
\$ 12.00



Men's Hygiene Kit
\$ 8.00



Women's Hygiene Kit
\$ 8.50

MARCHANTIA BRUMFIELD
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
BATON ROUGE, LA

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Grambling State University

HOBBIES:

Reading, Writing, Baking, Gardening, Traveling, Spending time with family and helping those in need

WHAT LED YOU TO BECOME A SUPERVISOR?

I was asked to apply by my supervisor at the time and finally accepted the fact that I can use my prior DCM experience of 6 and ½ years to be an effective team leader for Disaster Case Management.

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

I am motivated by my desire to help others. I enjoy that I can use my prior DCM training and experience to be an effective team leader.



ROMMEL MORALES
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
HURRICANE HARVEY



Rommel Morales is a disaster case manager with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul located in Victoria, Texas. Morales joined DSC-SVDP-USA on May of 2018.

Prior to SVDP Morales was part of the “Crisis” team at Gulf Bend Mental Health, a mental health center whose mission was to improve the quality of life in our community for individuals and their families by providing excellent and trusted care for wellness.

Rommel mentioned that he’s enjoyed every single aspect of being a Disaster Case Manager, and that he loves serving the community of Victoria. Morales is planning on working with the community for as long as his services are required.



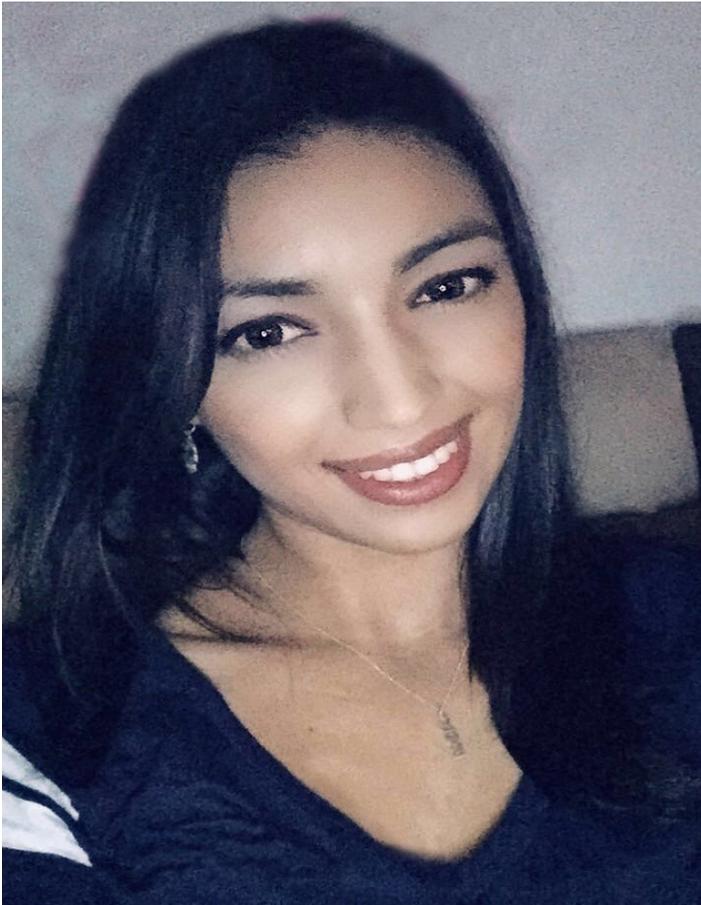
FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
HURRICANE HARVEY

Francisco Rodriguez, DCM Jackson County

Francisco Rodriguez started his higher education at Texas State University in San Marcos where he completed his education with a degree in Public Administration. Went on and worked in government for about a year working with citizens helping them out in any way possible with questions or problems that arose to the public. Also working on projects where he implemented and made sure the event was successful and everything ran smoothly. Sitting in town meetings to hear the concerns of citizens with infrastructure. He would be there to jot notes and work with colleagues to figure out a solution the following day to help our concerned citizens of the dilemmas that we were unaware of.



MICHELLE CHAVEZ
DISASTER CASE MANAGER
HURRICANE HARVEY



Michelle Chavez is a disaster case manager for SVDP – USA Disaster Service. She joined SVDP in May and is currently working the TX-4332 Hurricane Harvey relief efforts in Victoria County, Texas. Michelle attended Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ where she obtained a BA in Psychology with a focus in Interpersonal Relationships, as well as a BS in Criminology with a focus in Global Justice and Victims and Victimization, in the Summer of 2015. While at Northern Arizona University, Michelle founded a catholic based group that focused on establishing community among first generation college student by providing students with a support network of cultural affirmation. Since graduating, Michelle has dedicated herself to the service of others. After college she worked for two years as a missionary, mentoring college students both in the Catholic faith and personal growth. Since then, Michelle has worked in several areas, most prominently, working with the rehabilitation of troubled youth. In her free time, Michelle enjoys volunteering in the community.

CREATING CALM

AUTHORED BY BRANDY R. CRANE, LBSW

DISASTER CASE MANAGER

HURRICANE HARVEY

I am Brandy R. Crane, LBSW, Disaster Case Manager for Jefferson County, TX. Additionally, I am a Hurricane Harvey survivor living in Orange, TX. Recently I attended this year's National Association of Social Workers (NASW-TX) Conference in Arlington, TX. There were many sessions offered that discussed the effects trauma and natural disasters on individuals and communities, which is applicable to the work we do. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to share information from one of the sessions. "Not everyone with trauma history has Post Traumatic Stress, but no one goes unaffected by the experience of trauma."

While we may have known this to be true on some level, it was brought home through our experiences of Hurricane Harvey. Not everyone experienced flooding, but our communities were impacted in ways we could not have imagined.

This session, entitled "Creating Calm", gives social workers and case managers the tools to help our clients through their trauma. The main concepts have been consolidated to the following:

- Trauma Jumbles Everything Up: It needs to be processed so the mind can make sense of it, and return to a comfortable baseline.
- Trauma Is A Liar!: Erroneous beliefs get set up as a result of trauma. Healing is about cleansing, and making sense of this confusion.
- Stages Of Healing:

- 1.Expression: The trauma must be given expression and venting, and avoidance challenged.
- 2.Reevaluation: We can't change the past, but we can change our perception and interpretation of the past.
- 3.Acceptance: That which we cannot accept torments us. The final stage of grief is release, acceptance.
- 4.The trauma survivor needs to understand and have buy in.

The last stage is most applicable to the work that we do at St. Vincent de Paul. By giving our clients the opportunity to reclaim their lives and property from the storm we are giving them their BUY IN. We are helping them through their recovery process and empowering them to make decisions for themselves and their families so that they can move forward and help their communities to heal.

More information from this session is available at https://drive.google.com/open?id=1kd_0YkmLWJza8pJfAlOJHjUpBZ-Uzb9k
Nixon, T. (2018, October 12). "Creating Calm": A Path for Teaching Clients How to Manage Anxiety and Process Trauma. Lecture presented at 2018 NASW-TX Conference in Arlington Convention Center, Arlington, TX.

VINCENTIANS ACTIVE IN DISASTER RECOVERY

Hello Vincentians, We were very busy yesterday and served about 2500 people by my best estimate. We ended up running out of food. Those receiving are very grateful and those serving were happy to be able too. A perfect combination. St Rita's also served on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Come on out and share your joy. Please sign up on saintrita.org under the volunteer banner. Blessed be the LORD.

-Stephen Elliott of Santa Rosa Beach, Florida



VINCENTIANS ACTIVE IN DISASTER RECOVERY



Quincy, Florida Parish Recovery Center Operations. Over 82 families were served.



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WWW.SVDPDISASTER.ORG



www.svdpdisaster.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: [@svdpusadisaster](https://twitter.com/svdpusadisaster)

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.

