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# DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

**Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA and Vincentians Active in Disaster Relief are in tune with the state based Emergency Management officials, FEMA reports, and local VOAD partners. DSC is assessing areas impacted by the hurricane and will make a plan for response. Please remember, we are second responders, not first responders.**

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 , 2 0 1 8

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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.

OUR VINCENTIANS ACTIVE IN DISASTER RECOVERY ARE ON STANDBY AS SECOND RESPONDERS.

[WWW.SVDPDISASTER.ORG](http://WWW.SVDPDISASTER.ORG)



[www.svdpdisaster.org](http://www.svdpdisaster.org)

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# AN UPDATE FROM OUR CEO ELIZABETH DISCO-SHEARER



This past week the Disaster Services Team has been monitoring the path of Florence and working with our VOAD partners, local Councils and Conferences, FEMA, State Emergency Management offices on plans for Long Term Recovery in the Carolinas. It was heart breaking to see people who were elderly or confirmed and unable to evacuate. There were others that simply could not afford the tank of gas that it took to drive away to a safer area. In a recent article in Scientific American, titled “Don’t Condemn People Who Don’t Evacuate for Hurricane Florence”, Mika McKinnon states that “disaster resilience actions- and really, like most of life-is easier if you have wealth, health and extensive social networks.” The author goes on to say that “people impacted by disasters need you to have empathy. They need you to advocate for preparing for the next disaster while still recovering from this disaster.” DSC sees middle income families go into situational poverty, because of disasters and families in generational poverty often cannot recover and remain in the same area. So, we must advocate for better education on preparedness and for allocating resources for mitigation to prevent future flooding. But probably the most important thing that we can do is to not judge why people did not leave, and work on providing financial support for unmet needs.

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# PARISH RECOVERY ASSISTANCE CENTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

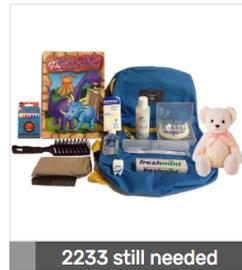
Volunteers are needed for the Carolinas Parish Recovery Assistance Centers that may be established. It's too early to determine when and where these will occur as the flood waters have not yet receded. Once the floodwater has gone down and the first responders have departed, we will make an assessment on the damage in the area. We will partner with our local Vincentians and the community to determine where the Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA can make the most effective impact. We will need volunteers to deploy for a minimum of 7 to 10 days, no time shorter than that. We will also need able bodies that can lift and carry heavy materials to set up the P-RACs and also support the group in sharing chores/tasks such as cooking and cleaning. The living and working conditions will be rough. So please keep that in mind. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please fill out our webform at: <https://www.svdpcdisaster.org/volunteer-interest-form> Your questionnaire will be evaluated and a phone interview will be scheduled for more information. A background check within the last 12 months is required in order to be processed for deployment. If you do not have a record of one, we will process a background check on your behalf. If you are not in good health to deploy, please remember we need assistance in other areas such as fundraising in an effort to continue these good works.



# 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.

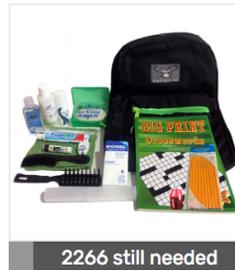
To support our efforts please visit:  
<https://svdp-dwsorceall.roonga.com/svdphgienekits2018>



2233 still needed

Child's Hygiene Kit  
\$ 15.00

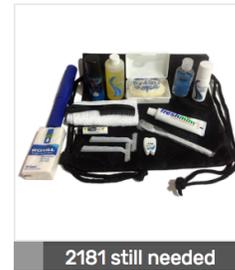
Add to Cart



2266 still needed

Youth Hygiene Kit  
\$ 12.00

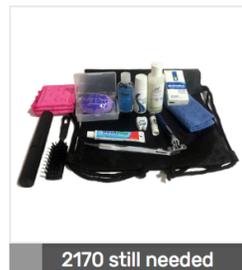
Add to Cart



2181 still needed

Men's Hygiene Kit  
\$ 8.00

Add to Cart



2170 still needed

Women's Hygiene Kit  
\$ 8.50

Add to Cart

# SEPTEMBER MONTHLY BLOG

## KEY PARTNERSHIPS IN DISASTER RELIEF

The moment was early December, 2017. Months after Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico, 30K+ families were living in homes without roofs, making a temporary home with friends and family, or sleeping in a shelter.

After three months of providing assistance in the form of debris management and medical services (to paint the picture, over 229 volunteers treated 2,592 patients and cleared miles of waterways) Team Rubicon knew it could do more.

The primary question at that moment was a question of whether we could help accelerate families' recovery and move beyond putting a tarps on homes -- to rebuilding roofs to code. Perhaps as importantly, whether we could do this for families who did have land tenure (which accounts for approximately 50% of housing in Puerto Rico). The answer was yes.

Central to our ability to rebuild roofs, was the need for a trusted community partner that had been working in these communities ahead of Hurricane Maria and would continue to support these families long after hammers stopped swinging. Cue Disaster Services Corporation, St Vincent de Paul USA.

**To continue reading please visit our blog authored by David Venables, Deputy Director of Rebuild at Team Rubicon, at: <https://www.svdpcdisaster.org/blog/key-partnerships-disaster-relief>**



ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
2018 - SAN DIEGO



TEAM RUBICON IS PRESENTED THE ANNUAL  
SAM CAROCCI HUMANITARIAN AWARD

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# REGINA THIBODEAUX DISASTER CASE MANAGER

Regina Thibodeaux is a Disaster Case Manager with SVDP- USA Disaster Service in Chambers County. She has been an active participant in the Beaumont community and her parish since was able to walk. Regina brings to the table over 10 years of case management experience from the healthcare and aviation industries services. As a single parent, Regina puts emphasis on improving knowledge for ones self and with that she a dynamic contributor to her daughter's education. Regina's huge heart, love for serving others, and lively dialog has proven to be a mutually beneficial relationship with the agency.



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SHARON A. WILLIAMS  
DISASTER CASE MANAGER



Sharon A. Williams received Associate of Applied Science in Business Management and OSHA from Lamar Institute of Technology. She has 20 plus years in Case Management and 8 years in Emergency Management. She's involved in a variety of community service and is passionate about disaster preparedness. Sharon joined Society of St. Vincent De Paul Disaster Services Corporation in 2010.





NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW

## Week 1: Make and Practice Your Plan

“Make and practice your plan,” is this week’s National Preparedness Month topic. It’s important for all Region IV staff to have a [communications plan](#) that fits your situation.

First, download the [FEMA app](#) so you know when severe weather is expected in your community, even when you’re away from home. You can sign up to get weather alerts for up to five locations.

Sit down with your family to discuss where you will meet and how you’ll [keep in touch](#) in an emergency. As a leader and influencer, you can encourage your [friends and neighbors](#) to do the same.

Conduct a [fire drill](#) to ensure everyone in your household knows two escape routes out of each room and their meeting place.

Make a [reunification plan](#) for family members after an emergency.

Prepare for the [unique needs](#) of your family members:

- Seniors and those with access and functional needs should [write down](#) the phone numbers, email and social media contact information of those in their personal support network and have this information readily available.
- Parents/guardians should learn how your child’s school and/or daycare officials will communicate with you during an emergency and make sure your emergency contact information is up to date.



# Disasters Happen

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW

## Week 1: Resource Guides for Making a Plan

- [Family Emergency Communication Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [Emergency Plan for Parents or \(PDF\)](#)
- [Emergency Plan for Kids or \(PDF\)](#)
- [Emergency Plan for Commuters \(PDF\)](#)
- [Tips on emergency alerts and warnings \(PDF\)](#)
- [Protect Critical Documents and Valuables \(PDF\)](#)
- [Document and Insure Your Property \(PDF\)](#)
- [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit \(PDF\)](#)
- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Disaster Checklist \(PDF\)](#)
- [Make A Plan \(Video\)](#)



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW

## Week 2: Life Saving Skills

What You Should Know About Life Saving Skills:

- Know basic preparedness skills to protect your family and home.
- Eliminate common electrical and fire hazards around your house and property.
- Install smoke, carbon monoxide, and natural gas alarms and test them monthly.
- Teach children what to do when they hear smoke, carbon monoxide, and natural gas alarms.
- Place natural gas detectors on every level of your home and test them monthly.
- Know how to turn off utilities like natural gas in your home.
- Talk to your landlord or building manager about evacuation routes and fire safety.
- Develop and practice a family communication plan and discuss it with your family.
- Have emergency supplies in place at home, at work, and in the car.
- Pay attention to alerts and warnings.
- Know two ways out of your home in the event of a fire and practice evacuation plans.
- Set some money aside from your income in case of an emergency.

More about Life Saving Skills Found Here: <https://www.ready.gov/life-saving-skills-toolkit>



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW

### Week 3: Financial Preparedness

Americans at all income levels have experienced the challenges of rebuilding their lives after a disaster or other emergency. In these stressful circumstances, having access to personal financial, insurance, medical, and other records is crucial for starting the process of recovery quickly and efficiently. Taking the time now to collect and secure these critical records will give you peace of mind and, in the event of an emergency, will ensure that you have the documentation needed to start the recovery process without delay.

- Gather financial and critical personal, household, and medical information.
- Consider saving money in an emergency savings account that could be used in any crisis. Keep a small amount of cash at home in a safe place. It is important to have small bills on hand because ATM's and credit cards may not work during a disaster when you need to purchase necessary supplies, fuel or food.
- Obtain property (homeowners or renters), health, and life insurance if you do not have them. Review existing policies for the amount and extent of coverage to ensure that what you have in place is what is required for you and your family for all possible hazards. Homeowners insurance does not typically cover flooding, so you may need to purchase flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK), a joint publication from Operation Hope and FEMA to help you prepare financially and provide tips to reduce the impact disasters can leave you with financially.



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW

### **Week 3: Financial Preparedness**

#### **At Home**

Using the EFFAK as a guide, or by downloading a secure mobile app on your phone, store important documents either in a safety deposit box, an external drive, on the cloud to make it easy to access during a disaster. Having your financial and medical records and important contact information will be crucial to help you start the recovery process quickly. Take time now to safeguard these critical documents.

#### **Household Identification**

Photo ID to prove identity of household members

Birth certificate to maintain or re-establish contact with family members

Social security card to apply for FEMA disaster assistance

Military service

Pet ID tags

Financial and Legal Documentation

Housing Payments to identify financial records and obligations

Insurance policies to re-establish financial accounts

Sources of income to maintain payments and credit

Tax statements to provide contact information for financial and legal providers & apply for FEMA disaster assistance

Medical Information

Physician information to provide doctors with health information if medical care is needed

Copies of health insurance information to ensure existing care continues uninterrupted

Immunization records and medications



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW

### **Week 3: Financial Preparedness**

#### **Insurance Information**

Having insurance for your home or business property is the best way to ensure you will have the necessary financial resources to help you repair, rebuild, or replace whatever is damaged. Document and insure your property now.

Household Contact information

Banking Institutions

Insurance agent

Health professionals

Service providers

Place of worship

Get your benefits electronically

A disaster can disrupt mail service for days or weeks. If you depend on Social Security or other regular benefits, switching to electronic payments is a simple, significant way to protect yourself financially before disaster strikes. It also eliminates the risk of stolen checks. The U.S. Department of the Treasury recommends two safer ways to get federal benefits:

Direct deposit to a checking or savings account. Federal benefit recipients can sign up by calling (800) 333-1795 or sign up online  
The Direct Express® prepaid debit card is designed as a safe and easy alternative to paper



# Disasters Happen

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW

## Week 3: Financial Preparedness

- [Financial Preparedness Toolkit \(link\)](#)
- [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit \(EFFAK\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit \(EFFAK\) Presentation \(PowerPoint PDF\)](#)
- [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit \(EFFAK\) checklists and forms \(PDF\)](#)
- [Safeguarding Your Valuables Facilitator Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [National Flood Insurance Program \(link\)](#)
- [DisasterAssistance.gov \(link\)](#)
- [Financial Literacy Education Commission \(link\)](#)
- [MyMoney.gov \(link\)](#)
- [ConsumerFinance.gov \(link\)](#)
- [Get Tech Ready \(link\)](#)



# Disasters Happen

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW

## Week 4: Save for an Emergency

Your Resource Guide: <https://www.usa.gov/flec>

- Find steps you can take to unlock your financial future
- A plan for your money can prepare you for when life happens. Create one now
- Keep your finances in check so you can reach your goals. Get tools like a budget worksheet and more here:
- Everyone is capable of planning for his or her financial future; you can start by creating your budget
- Financial peace can be a reality if you set goals and take small steps towards them
- Creating a budget is easy to do and gives you the power over where your money goes. Create one with this worksheet
- Managing your money gives you power over your money, create a spending plan and take control of your dollars and cents
- Start spending smart, create a plan to know where every dollar goes
- Track your expenses, so you know where your money goes
- Small spending adds up. Find those money leaks and put them to good use with this personal budgeting worksheet
- Get smart about your finances when you are young, so you can meet your goals later
- It's never too early to start learning how to handle your finances. Teach your children about money with these lessons-Teach your kids about the value of earning, saving, and spending money with the World of Cents game
- Take a virtual road trip and play the Hit the Road game to see if you can manage your money to complete the trip
- Learn about scams targeting older adults and veterans now, protect yourself from fraud
- Don't sacrifice your health to stay on budget. Find healthy low-cost recipes and learn how to save more at the store
- Ensure you can retire one day. Check out these planning tools
- Are you ready to retire? Make sure you can enjoy retirement with these planning tools
- Did you know military families can receive no cost financial planning from Military One-Source? Take advantage of their resources: <https://www.usa.gov/flec>



# Disasters Happen

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

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## Week 4: Save for an Emergency

Your Resource Guide: <https://www.usa.gov/flec>

- Are you ready to save for your future? Get saving tips to help unlock your financial future
- The time to save for your financial future is now! Get started today
- Money is the #1 source of stress for adults. Manage your stress by saving early and often.
- Emergencies will happen, but your savings can be your fall back plan. Start saving today
- Good money habits in childhood can help unlock a bright financial future.
- Parents talk to your children about saving early.
- Saving can be easy when you make it a habit; start by putting a small amount aside from your income regularly
- Habits that pay off - Saving small amounts now can get big results later.
- 48% of people have set aside an emergency rainy day fund. Make saving a priority by paying yourself first
- Create a budget that includes putting money into your savings account every month.
- Pay yourself first! Before you spend that paycheck, put a little bit of it in your savings account.
- About half of households age 55 or older have no retirement savings. Start saving now to avoid falling in this trap
- Retirement will be here before you know it. Begin saving now to make retirement a smoother transition
- Establish both long-term and short-term goals for your money. You will be more inclined to save if you know what you are saving for
- Teach your students about money during Financial Capability Month with these resources for teachers
- Why put off tomorrow the debt you can pay down today? The earlier you begin to pay off your debt the sooner it will be gone
- Children with small amounts saved for college are more likely to enroll and graduate. Save early for your children's future
- Saving \$\$ is not only a good financial practice, but puts you in a position to help loved ones and your community after a disaster.
- Teach your kids this simple life saving skill, save some money now to be one-step ahead when an emergency hits.

SVDP-USA

**DISASTER**



**SERVICES**

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[www.svdpdisaster.org](http://www.svdpdisaster.org)

# 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.

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

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

