

DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

The Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA's Disaster Case Management Victoria Team, participated with other DCMs covering Victoria County survivors recovery from Harvey in a county wide anniversary "Victoria Strong"

SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

AN UPDATE FROM OUR CEO ELIZABETH DISCO-SHEARER

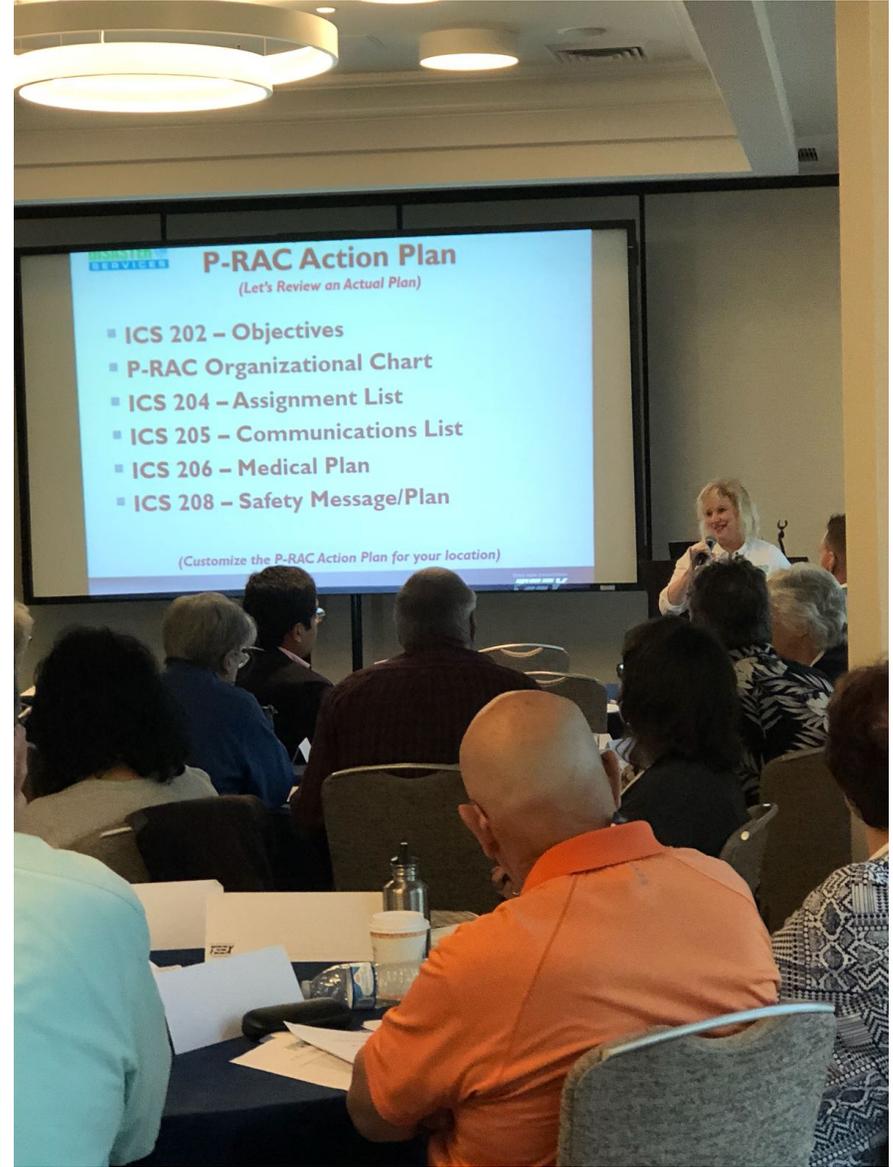


Last week was an inspiring week for the Disaster Services Corporation. We conducted a Disaster Preparedness Workshop to a room filled to capacity, with Vincentians from around the country. We were very fortunate to have presentations from Dan Buchanan, Associate Training Specialist-Preparedness Program, TEEEX Emergency Services Training Institute at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. We also had an outstanding panel of leaders discussing what they did in the weeks and months after major disasters hit their community. Represented on the Recovery Panel Workshop were Jack Tibbitts, Executive Director of the District Council of Sonoma. Jack discussed the impact of the wildfires on Sonoma and other communities and what his council did to respond. Also, on the panel was Father Bruce Anderson from St. Croix, USVI and William Maldonado Rodriguez, SVDP Council President of Puerto Rico. There were tears shed as we listened to these panelists give witness to the scenes on the ground after Hurricanes Irma and Maria struck the islands. All the panelists were outstanding, and all emphasized the importance of having a plan. We also presented the 2018 Sam Carocci Humanitarian Disaster Relief Award to Team Rubicon for their support of Disaster Services in Puerto Rico. Team Rubicon is a National Partner of Disaster Services and has been rebuilding roofs for the most vulnerable Maria survivors in Puerto Rico. I am so grateful for all the support that DSC SVDP-USA has had with its long-term recovery efforts across the United States and American Territories.

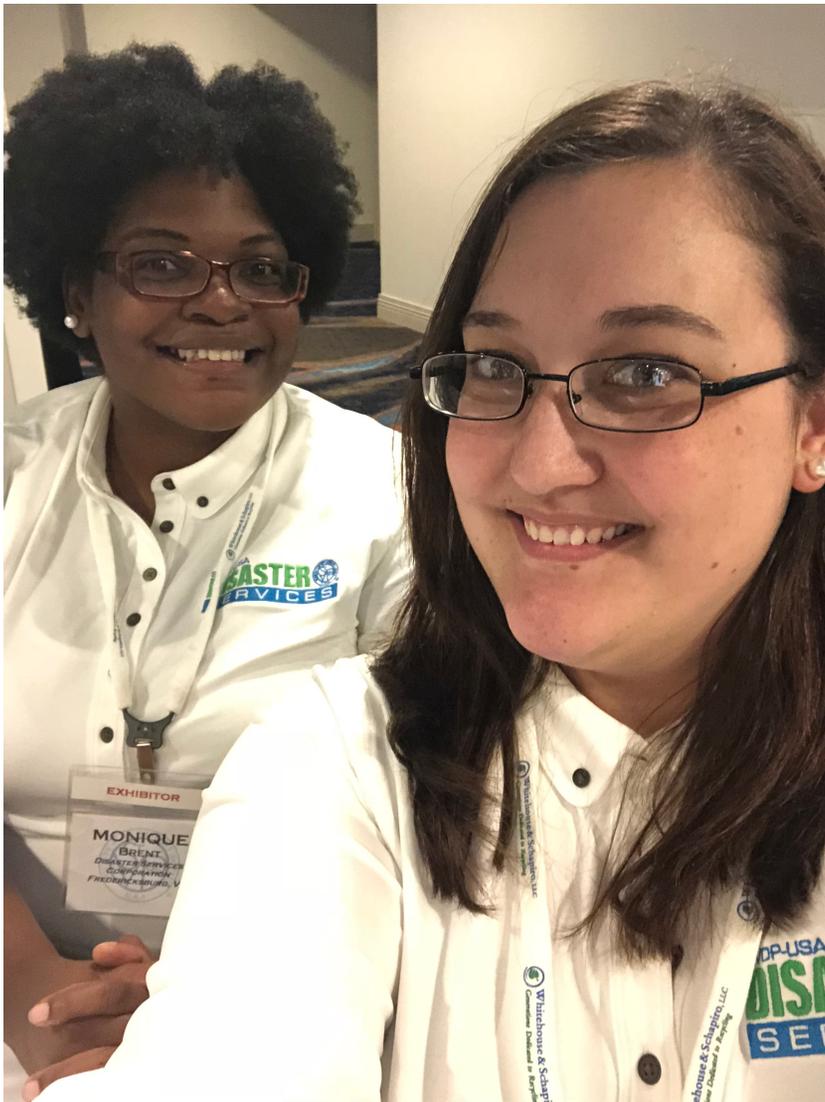
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
2018 - SAN DIEGO
DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS
TRAINING SESSION



ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2018 - SAN DIEGO IMAGES



ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2018 - SAN DIEGO IMAGES



VINCENTIANS COME TOGETHER IN STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

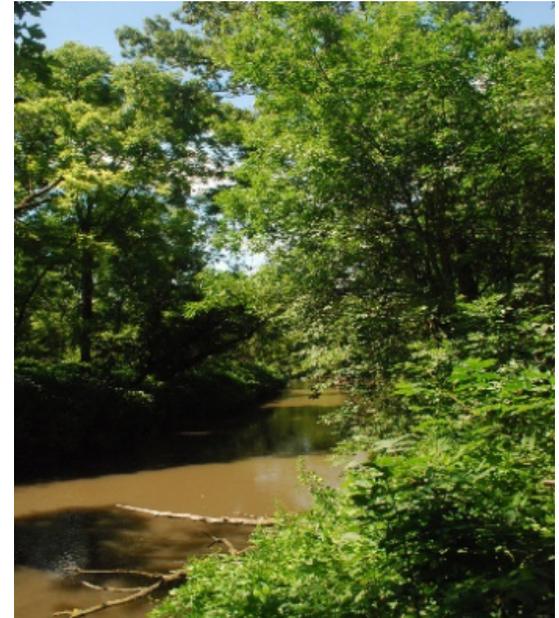
Susan Wiland, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Rockford Council President

The Pecatonica River, a 194 mile tributary of the Rock River flows through northern Illinois, through Freeport and Pearl City. The word Pecatonica is the English form of two Algonquian Indian language words which means "slow", and niba, which means "water", forming the conjunction Bekaaniba or "Slow Water". It was anything but slow in July 2017.

In July, in the Freeport and Pearl City area, the Pecatonica River crested at 15.86 feet after heavy rainfall and high winds. It left many residents on the east side of town with flooded homes and structural damage. Many homes were uninhabitable causing those homeowners to find shelters or alternative housing. On August 4 the emergency response commenced with the opening of a MARC (Multi-Agency Resource Center) at the local high school. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central District members in the Rockford Diocese manned the center, recorded each household that visited the table, and distributed Walmart gift cards. 187 households visited our table that day.

The logical next step was that the local community organizations would band together to continue the task of assisting in longer term disaster assistance, i.e. assessing the damage and identifying funding opportunities. All of the local community organizations knocked on every door and assisted in one way or another, mucking out basements, replacing furnaces and water heaters, providing mold remediation kits, food, and financial assistance. Sadly, there was no further community assistance available long term and these 187 households continued to fend for themselves.

Continued...



VINCENTIANS COME TOGETHER IN STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Susan Wiland, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Rockford Council President

Continued...

In September 2017, the Rockford Council began to make follow up calls to all persons on our list to determine the priority of their unmet needs. Of these 187, 34 were identified as emergency or high priority cases. Our one and only Disaster Case Manager, from the Peoria Council, began the arduous task of long term case management, tackling the emergency cases first. This continued until February 2018 where St. Vincent de Paul financially assisted two households.

Now fast forward to May 2018. Our only Disaster Case Manager was redirected to Watseka, Illinois where another flooding disaster had also occurred. So, long term case management in Freeport and Pearl City were abandoned. Our regional coordinator met with the emergency assistance manager and a couple of local organizations to follow up on the status of these households to solicit additional support. They were not aware of any households that required additional assistance.

Again, our Vincentian community stepped it up. 13 Disaster Case Managers were trained and assigned cases. All 187 households were called to identify those who still had unmet needs. Of these 187, 34 were identified as having unmet needs. The team is now in the process of making home visits to further assess the needs of these flood victims. We have identified 16 households with structural damage and have reached out to Belfor, a disaster recovery company, to assess the damage. The other 18 households are in need of appliances and other miscellaneous items.

In parallel, we continue to coordinate our efforts with the local VOAD in Stephenson County in the hopes that we will be able to make a difference in the victims' lives. We live by our Vincentian spirituality and know that no one person is exempt from our help. This is who we are. We make no distinction in those we serve because we see the face of Christ. And, these families are very grateful for our caring and have an optimism that has diminished over the last year.



**June 2018 –
Damaged furnace**

SAMUEL PAINTSIL, DISASTER CASE MANAGER

I am Samuel Paintsil, and ordained Baptist minister from Ghana in West Africa, and currently an Associate Minister of the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Dayton, Texas. I am a Trained Certificated Teacher who was educated in Ghana, West Africa. After teaching for 13 years I left the shores of Africa to pursue further studies in England. I have Bachelor of International Marketing(London), Bachelor of Biblical Studies, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Theology (all from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Camilla Georgia).

I am married to Debra McGinnis-Paintsil and I have been living in Liberty for the past 30 years. I have four daughters – Hannah, Jennifer, Elizabeth, and Natasha.

I took the Disaster Case Manager position with St. Vincent de Paul because of my desire to help those in need. My heart goes out to those who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey and I get the greatest satisfaction when I am able to make a difference in the life of needy people.



STEVE KEHL

DISASTER CASE MANAGER



I was born in Louisville, KY and joined the U.S. Air Force where I served as a Security Policeman for 9 years stationed both overseas and stateside. My final duty station was Tinker AFB, OK. After the military. I was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for 10 years and served as a unit supervisor for 4 years when I got my calling to finish my education. I received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Phoenix, a Masters degree in Counseling from Mid America Christian University and am currently pursuing a Masters degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on Emergency Management. I first got involved in disaster recovery through St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Services after an F-5 tornado devastated the small town of Moore, OK in 2013. After that project reached an end, I was afforded the opportunity to assist residents in a the small town of Sand Springs, OK recover from a tornado that struck in 2015. Once recovery was complete, I pursued other interests until I received the opportunity to again rejoin St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Services by relocating to Texas and help provide recovery services due to Hurricane Harvey. I deeply feel that assisting people that were affected by disaster is my calling and I get a great sense of hope and satisfaction when I am able to provide assistance to those that need it most. I am married to my beautiful wife Erin and between us, we have 4 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 dogs. In my spare time I enjoy playing bass guitar, riding motorcycles and watching all types of sports.



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>

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 Deployment

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.

