

Seek & Serve



Episcopal
Relief & Development

Healing a hurting world

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Ready to Serve

It's often said that the only certainties in life are death and taxes. But there's another certainty, too—disasters. We don't know where, when and how they will strike, but every year, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, drought, wildfires, and man-made

catastrophes will happen in the U.S. and around the world.

That's why preparedness is essential to saving lives and minimizing the damage of disasters, and why Episcopal Relief & Development is working intensively to ensure that dioceses and churches are fully trained, armed with a response plan, and ready to handle whatever misfortune throws at them.



Volunteer in Galveston, Texas working through the Diocese of Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

In the past year alone, Episcopal Relief & Development's U.S. Disaster Preparedness Initiative conducted four regional trainings around the country.

Participants learned how to take an inventory of their assets to determine how they can respond most effectively, how to identify who is most vulnerable and needs the most help, and how to build a response team poised for action. The trainings also address

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Are You Prepared?

Episcopal Relief & Development encourages readers to contact their parish and diocese about how they can help with disaster preparation. But in addition to acting collectively through their congregations, readers should ensure that they and their families are prepared as well. Here are some tips to ensure that you are ready to deal with potential disaster:

1) MAKE A PLAN:

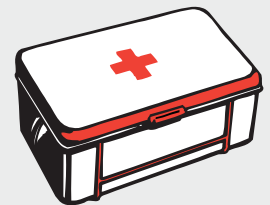
- Make sure everyone in your family has memorized the **phone number** for someone outside of your immediate area to call in case of an emergency.
- Make a **wallet card** that includes important numbers and information.
- **Text messages** may still work even when phone calls don't go through, so make sure your family knows how to text.

2) BE INFORMED

- Find an easy way to **access information**, such as signing up for text alerts. To find a local agency providing alerts, go to www.ready.gov/america/local/index.html.
- Listen to **local area weather radio stations**.

3) GET A KIT

- **Water, food and cash** are the three most important things you'll need. Store one gallon of water per person for three days, enough non-perishable food items for three days, and small denomination bills and change as part of your cash.
- **Put together a "go kit"** that you can keep stashed in your house that includes a battery-powered or a hand-crank radio, a first aid kit, extra keys for your home and vehicle, flashlights, batteries, a whistle, sanitation supplies, tools, a manual can opener, local maps, prescription medication, glasses, infant formula and diapers if you have a young child, and pet food if necessary.
- **Other supplies** to pull together include important documents, change of clothing, a fire extinguisher, matches, paper and pencils, duct tape, rain gear, a two-way radio, medical information, and games and books.





PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:
**Healing Hurting
Communities**

If you're like many supporters of Episcopal Relief & Development, you probably think of us as a global development organization that works primarily in some of the world's poorest countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. But when we say our mission is to heal a hurting world, we mean it — including when those who are hurting are right here in the United States.

The fact is that hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other disasters often strike in the U.S. In fact, parts of our nation are unusually vulnerable to these catastrophic events. The people who are injured, lose loved ones, or lose their homes and livelihoods as a result need our help, too. And as in so many other countries, our church has a community-based presence and infrastructure — as well as a commitment to people's spiritual well-being — that makes it ideally suited to offer relief and comfort.

That's why one of our primary missions is to strengthen the capacity of our U.S. churches and dioceses to prepare for, prevent where possible, and provide relief from natural disasters.

Our U.S. Disaster Preparedness Initiative identifies churches and dioceses in disaster-prone areas and then works to train and equip them with the tools to be ready to respond if and when they are needed. We also work with them to build volunteer networks and we provide hands-on assistance, as well as direct material support, in the aftermath of disasters.

The Episcopal Church brings many unique assets to the table when it comes to domestic disasters. Our clergy and lay leaders are centrally involved in broader community affairs. Our congregations possess a range of skills and a desire to serve that makes them extremely valuable in helping the less fortunate. Our physical infrastructure — halls, meeting rooms, even parking lots — often play critical roles as meeting places and command centers. And each church can count on the support of the diocese, the Episcopal Church and Episcopal Relief & Development. They don't have to go it alone.

Equally important, our churches aren't going anywhere. Long after FEMA, the Red Cross and other relief organizations have moved on, we're still there working on long-term efforts not just to alleviate the impact of disaster but to leave our communities even better off than they were before.

Through this work we put our faith into action every day, and that may be the greatest gift of all.

Yours faithfully,

Robert W. Radtke
President

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how to deal with federal and non-governmental relief agencies and how to maximize the unique strengths the Episcopal Church brings to disaster response.

Equally important, Episcopal Relief & Development is fostering a vibrant network of diocesan and church disaster planners and responders, enabling them to get to know one another, learn from each other, and get new ideas.

Another key element is "Ready to Serve," a database we are building of volunteers who are ready and willing to respond in the event of a disaster. Diocesan disaster coordinators have access to this list and can mobilize volunteers when needed.



Disaster Preparedness, Spiritual and Emotional Training in the Diocese of Texas.

Episcopal Relief & Development has also created a U.S. disaster response ministry, Partners in Response. This team of clergy and lay leaders travels to areas hit by disaster to help congregations and dioceses craft response plans to reach out not only to their own members but to the larger community, especially the most vulnerable.

This spring, for example, Partners in Response was invited by the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis to meet with clergy and lay leaders of three

congregations in an area that was devastated by a swarm of deadly tornados. Working together, the congregations immediately began relief efforts and were quickly joined by the other 43 congregations in the Diocese and parishes throughout the Episcopal Church. Today, they are in the midst of an interfaith, region-wide campaign in which hundreds of volunteers are already rebuilding people's homes.

While preparation and response are critical in large disasters like this one, it's just as valuable when dealing with small ones. Episcopal Church of the Redemption in Baltimore proved that. When a gas main blew in November 2011, almost 2,000 residents in the church's Locust Point neighborhood were forced to go three days without heat or hot water. The church conducted an inventory of its assets and immediately put them to use serving the community.

Their number one asset was the parish hall and parking lot that were the largest in the neighborhood. The hall was used for meetings between the gas company and neighbors, and the parking lot was where the utility kept its vehicles so they wouldn't take up precious on-street parking. One parishioner, who lived on the only block that still had gas service, offered her house for anyone needing a place to warm up or a shower. The rector, Rev. Annette Chappell, got the local civic association to send out an e-mail blast asking people to check in daily on their elderly neighbors. Moreover, the church's boiler room

provided the ideal location for the gas company to purge the neighborhood's gas lines, which was critical to restoring full service.

"Until the emergency occurred, we didn't know exactly which assets would be needed and how they would be used," Rev. Chappell observed. "The real



Providing essentials is an important part of emergency response.

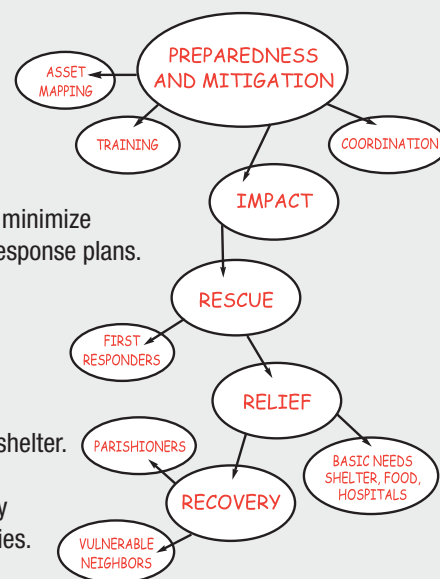
lesson our congregation learned was: given that every emergency may require different assets and skills, knowing what is available to you and having the flexibility to use it is always the most important asset."

As the U.S. Disaster Preparedness Initiative continues its work, more and more congregations will be armed with these lessons and ready to put them to good—and possibly life-saving—use when bad luck strikes.

Lifecycle of a Disaster

While disasters often have very different causes and widely varying impacts on people, property and communities, all follow a very similar cycle. Episcopal Relief & Development works to have the greatest positive impact at each stage.

- **PREPAREDNESS** — Identifying potential disaster vulnerabilities, determining how to prevent or minimize damage, pinpointing what assets can be brought to bear in disaster response, and developing response plans.
- **IMPACT** — Focusing on survival and saving people from danger during the crisis.
- **RESCUE** — Conducting emergency response to save lives in the immediate aftermath.
- **RELIEF** — Creating solutions to meet people's urgent needs, such as drinking water, food, and shelter.
- **SHORT-TERM RECOVERY** — Developing intermediate solutions to problems, such as temporary housing, vouchers to purchase food, and assistance in navigating government relief bureaucracies. Pastoral counseling is often very important at this stage.
- **LONG-TERM RECOVERY** — Building a "new normal" where people return to lives as good as or better than before with jobs, permanent housing, revived communities, renewed economic self-sufficiency, and strong support networks.



Meeting the Challenge: Health and Hope in Kenya

Nyanza Province in Kenya has some of the country's worst health indicators, including high rates of HIV and malaria. Rural communities in the province also struggle with poverty, food insecurity, lack of clean water, and are prone to both flooding and droughts.



Group members track savings and loan payments during their weekly meeting.

As formidable as the challenges are, the women and men of Moro, a community near the shores of Lake Victoria, refuse to be intimidated. “*We are strong!*” a woman that is part of a group of HIV-positive individuals proclaimed at a community gathering. “*We are healthy!*” another elderly resident said proudly.

In 2008, our partner, Anglican Development Services (ADS-Nyanza), the development arm of the Anglican Church of Kenya, began working in the area to foster this attitude. ADS-Nyanza and Moro residents felt that the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS was preventing community members who had the disease from

leading healthy, productive lives. But they also found that in some cases this negativity actually came from HIV positive individuals who were pessimistic about their future potential.

To break through this stigma, ADS-Nyanza launched an integrated development program in Moro to holistically address the many challenges faced by the HIV positive members of the community.

ADS-Nyanza helped organize six groups of people living with HIV, and those groups have met every Tuesday morning for the last five years. Participants have learned about nutrition, good hygiene, how to access treatment, and how to limit transmission of the HIV virus.

They also received training on starting and managing small, group businesses—including beekeeping, poultry rearing and raising dairy goats—and maintaining a group savings and loans program.

Group members regularly contribute to a fund that is used to make loans to members and to fund urgent needs, such as building a home for a widow or purchasing medicine during a life-threatening illness.

The people of Moro continue to face huge challenges every day, yet despite these obstacles, community members say their lives have been transformed. They no longer are quite as fearful about their health, about going hungry, or about meeting basic needs. They are hopeful about the future of their children. Perhaps most important, they believe in their capacity to care for themselves and their families. In the end, that is what sustainable development is all about.

The Matthew²⁵ Legacy Society

We are grateful that many of our supporters have become members of the *Matthew²⁵ Legacy Society* by notifying us that they are remembering Episcopal Relief & Development in their will, or through other planned gifts.

Bruce Ogilvie and his family saw the *Matthew²⁵ Legacy Society* as their opportunity to pay it forward and to support an organization Bruce says “is going to survive all of us” because it is so ethical and effective.

By donating two fully amortized life insurance policies to Episcopal Relief & Development, Bruce and his wife were able to make a significant gift on behalf of their family while they were still alive and able to witness its impact. “We are an ordinary middle class family, much the same as many others who will read this article. If we can accomplish this, many others could,” encouraged Bruce.

Won't you join the Ogilvie family? Through bequests and planned gifts we are assured of future funding – funding that can help us eliminate malaria and prevent AIDS...ensure that families have access to safe drinking water...guarantee that all children receive at least a complete primary school education. These things can be achieved if we have the resources to sustain our endeavors.

Bequests and other forms of planned giving allow us to do just that. Please consider joining the *Matthew²⁵ Legacy Society* by contacting us at 1.855.312.HEAL. You can also contact us via email at externalaffairs@er-d.org.