



**American  
Red Cross**

## Louisiana Flooding

Six-Month Update | March 2017

### Red Cross Brings Relief, Emergency Assistance after Massive Flooding

In August 2016, record floods brought heartbreaking destruction to parishes across south Louisiana. Thousands of American Red Cross disaster responders from across the country mobilized alongside local Red Cross workers to bring immediate relief.

The Red Cross opened and staffed safe shelters for people forced from their homes and provided meals, vital relief supplies and health services, such as replacing lost prescriptions and eyeglasses. Just as importantly, we offered emotional support and comfort for flood survivors, including many who lost everything. And as people began returning to their neighborhoods to clean out waterlogged homes and salvage what they could, Red Cross workers traveled through affected communities with food, water and essential cleanup supplies.

Robin Thompson, a Red Cross volunteer from Anchorage, Alaska, began serving with the Louisiana flood response in early December and remained for nearly eight weeks.

“There would be no way we could still be here helping families, finding families, providing for families without the donors,” Thompson said. “Without the donors, we wouldn’t have given residents the means to be hopeful for one more day, to have the strength to keep on in their recovery, and to know there are people who care.”

Robin Thompson, Red Cross volunteer

Long after the flood waters receded, dedicated Red Cross employees and volunteers like Robin have continued to provide critical assistance for flood survivors with unmet needs. Trained caseworkers have worked with affected individuals and families, helping them make recovery plans and locate available resources, including financial assistance for those who qualify and help finding long-term housing solutions.

#### Response at a Glance

More than 4,800 Red Cross workers, half of whom are from Louisiana, have helped thousands of people impacted by the August 2016 flooding in Louisiana, including:



More than **79,800**  
**overnight shelter stays**



More than **1.3 million**  
**meals and snacks** served



Nearly **700,000** relief  
**items** distributed



More than **47,000** health and  
**mental health contacts** made



More than **11,400** cases  
opened for people in need

—All numbers are cumulative and reflect Red Cross response efforts since August 12, 2016.

**Red Cross Helping Flood Survivors Get Back on their Feet**

Six months later, the Red Cross continues to stand with affected residents in Louisiana as they rebuild their lives. A recovery effort of this size is larger than any one organization, and the Red Cross is awarding grants to a number of nonprofits with specialized expertise and strong local ties. Our recovery and partnership efforts also invest in the affected communities—helping revive local economies and benefiting families and much-needed local businesses.

Alongside partners like the United Ways of Acadiana, Capital Area and Southeast Louisiana, and Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge, we are helping to plan and assist with community recovery in the affected parishes—supporting the hiring of recovery staff and helping to fund repairs that allow people to complete work on damaged homes. The collaboration will invest up to \$10,000 per home, with a focus on the most at-risk populations of flood survivors.

We are also helping people with functional needs or disabilities repair and get back into their flood-damaged homes, through the Louisiana EMDAC (Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition). In addition, the Red Cross is finalizing plans to support the work of Operation Hope, which will provide financial counseling services geared to Louisiana residents as they recover from the flooding, helping them both regain financial stability and prepare for future disasters.

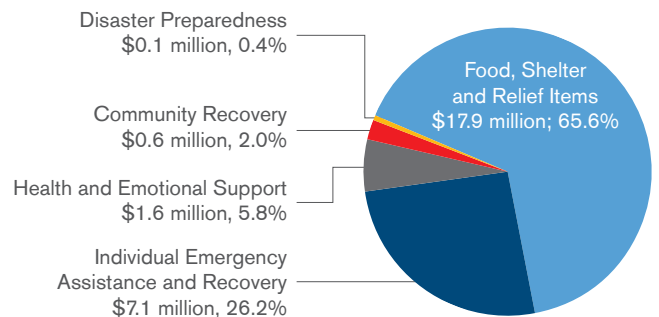
Along with aid for recovery, we are helping families become better prepared for emergencies through partnerships with local agencies that are leaders in supporting community needs. The Red Cross is also providing free smoke alarms for newly repaired homes and supplying affected residents with preparedness kits that include items like weather radios—ensuring they are one step ahead should they be threatened by another disaster.

**Generous Donations Support Louisiana Relief and Recovery**

Thanks to our compassionate supporters, the Red Cross has raised \$28.8 million, including the value of critical donated goods and services, to help people impacted by the August 2016 flooding in south Louisiana. As of February 3, 2017, the Red Cross has already spent or made commitments to spend approximately \$27.3 million on emergency relief, recovery and preparedness efforts for the August 2016 Louisiana floods. Remaining funds will be used to provide and support ongoing services for both individual and community long-term recovery and preparedness in the affected Louisiana communities.

**Louisiana Flooding Expenses and Commitments\***

Through February 3, 2017 – \$27.3 (\$28.8M raised)\*\*



\* These costs include the logistics, staff and technology expenses that make our services possible, as well as the value of critical donated goods and services. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

\*\* Remaining funds will be used to provide and support ongoing services for long-term recovery and preparedness in the affected Louisiana communities.

The Red Cross must be ready for every disaster, big or small, and we respond to an average of nearly 64,000 disasters per year—including single-family or apartment home fires, severe weather, floods and wildfires. Those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us right after the disaster and through their recovery. Your donation helps us fulfill this promise. We are grateful for your trust.

*Thank you!*