



# Hurricane Michael

SIX-MONTH UPDATE | APRIL 2019



## Red Cross Responds to Michael's Devastating Impact

Six months ago, Hurricane Michael—one of the strongest hurricanes ever to strike the continental U.S.—roared ashore near Panama City, Florida, with a devastating impact that brought catastrophic losses to coastal areas. In hard-hit Mexico Beach, entire blocks were swept away by Michael's 14-foot storm surge and 150 mph winds. As it moved north, the fast-moving storm also hammered communities in Alabama and through much of Georgia with destructive winds and severe weather.

While survivors struggled to cope with Michael's widespread destruction, thousands of Red Cross disaster workers joined community, nonprofit and government partners to support vital relief efforts. They helped provide safe shelter and warm meals for families who had fled from or lost their homes. In addition, they delivered essential relief supplies as well as much-needed emotional and spiritual support for heartbroken residents.

And as residents returned to storm-ravaged neighborhoods to clear massive debris and salvage

the scattered remnants of homes and belongings, Red Cross volunteers were by their sides. They provided food and water, cleanup supplies like bleach, tarps, work gloves, trash bags, shovels and rakes, and much more to help ease the burdens of impacted individuals and families.

Along with food, shelter, relief supplies and comfort, the Red Cross also offered financial assistance to survivors in the weeks after Michael's rampage. Thanks to the generosity of compassionate donors, we have provided immediate financial assistance of \$450 each to thousands of severely impacted individuals and families. This timely support helped severely affected households purchase necessities like groceries and clothing in the hurricane's aftermath.

To help residents on their journey to recovery, we are also providing a second phase of recovery assistance to people in Florida and Georgia whose homes were most heavily damaged by Hurricane Michael.

### Response at a Glance

Thousands of American Red Cross workers mounted a massive response to help tens of thousands of people impacted by Hurricane Michael.



More than **2 million meals and snacks** served with partners



More than **270,200 relief items** distributed



More than **45,000 overnight shelter stays** provided with partners



More than **37,000 health and mental health** contacts made



More than **4,500 severely affected households** provided with recovery financial assistance

—Cumulative figures in Ala., Fla. and Ga. as of April 12, 2019

Above: Panama City, Florida, residents James and Carrie Watson receive hot meals from volunteer Maria Locklar during a visit by a Red Cross emergency response vehicle. Their neighborhood was severely damaged by the storm. Photo by Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

## Red Cross Provides Ongoing Support for Hurricane Survivors

In the difficult weeks following Hurricane Michael's landfall, the Red Cross brought shelter, relief and comfort to tens of thousands of people. Six months later, we are providing ongoing support for hurricane survivors. The Red Cross is part of a large team—including government and nonprofit partners as well as businesses and faith-based organizations—that is helping residents move through the recovery process and access the critical services and resources they need to get back on their feet.

To help the most severely affected households, the Red Cross is providing additional recovery financial assistance for people across the impacted communities. Reaching out directly to residents using a combination of Red Cross damage assessment information and FEMA inspection data, we have already provided recovery assistance of \$1,000 each to more than 4,500 of the most severely impacted households. This financial assistance will allow people to make their own decisions and prioritize their family's needs, such as home repairs and other housing expenses, purchase of specialized medical devices, transportation costs and more.

### Red Cross Relief Makes a Difference for Georgia Mother and Child

For one-year-old Layla and her mother, Angel Adams, returning to a normal routine after Hurricane Michael was a big challenge. The roof of their Donalsonville, Georgia, home caved in during the storm, and they lost power for days, making it difficult to replenish everyday essentials like baby supplies.

Red Cross volunteers arrived just in time, delivering supplies like tarps, water, flashlights and diapers. One of those volunteers was Diane Dunder, from Superior, Wisconsin, who was on her 35<sup>th</sup> Red Cross deployment.

"It was good for my heart to hold Layla. She reminded me of my own grandchildren and how important family is," Diane said.

Today Layla is happy and healthy, "That's because of the Red Cross," said Angel. "If it wasn't for the supplies those volunteers gave to us after the hurricane—I just don't know where I would've gotten water and diapers."



Red Cross volunteer Diane Dunder holds one-year-old Layla as her mother, Angel, looks on. Angel and Layla received aid from the Red Cross after their home was severely damaged by Hurricane Michael. Photo by Ian Servin/American Red Cross

### Florida Couple Grateful for Red Cross after Michael Battered their Home

Terry Stryker and his wife had little time to make an evacuation plan and decided to ride out Hurricane Michael. "This one developed so fast," he said. "My wife and I are both Florida natives and have always stayed during storms, why should this one be any different?" They hunkered down on the ground floor until Michael's eye arrived, seeking refuge in a safe room when the winds began to howl once again.

"When the storm passed, we thanked God we were still alive," said Terry. "All we saw from the bottom floor was trees. Going upstairs we found three trees had punctured the roof, ceilings had collapsed, windows had blown out. We opened the front door and it looked like a nuclear bomb had gone off."

Soon, they saw Red Cross workers coming through the neighborhood to check on people. Next, they saw the food trucks. "We had many delicious hot meals from them in the days after the storm," Terry said. In addition to food, the couple also received \$1,450 in immediate and recovery financial assistance from the Red Cross.

"We always gave to the Red Cross; I never expected to receive financial assistance," Terry said. "We are so grateful for the assistance we received, because at that moment we didn't know what we were going to do."



The Stryker family received Red Cross financial assistance after their home was severely damaged by Hurricane Michael. Photos courtesy of Terry Stryker

## Generous Donors Fund Relief and Recovery for Michael Survivors

Thanks to generous support from our donors, the Red Cross has raised \$36.2 million, including the value of critical donated goods and services, to help people impacted by Hurricane Michael. As of April 12, 2019, the Red Cross has already programmed approximately \$29.3 million on relief and recovery efforts for people affected by Hurricane Michael. We will continue to provide and support services for both individual and community long-term recovery in the impacted communities.



**Hurricane Michael Expenses and Commitments (in millions)<sup>1</sup>**  
as of April 12, 2019 (\$36.2 million raised)

Expense Categories	Food, Shelter and Relief Items	Health and Emotional Support	Immediate Financial Assistance	Individual and Community Recovery	Total	Expense %
Financial assistance, food and other relief items	\$6.3	\$0.2	\$3.8	\$4.5	\$14.8	51%
Deployment of volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$4.5	\$0.4	\$0.1	—	\$5.0	17%
Freight, postage and warehousing	\$2.0	—	—	—	\$2.0	7%
Full-time Red Cross employees	\$1.2	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$1.7	6%
Kitchen, shelter and other logistics that enable service delivery	\$1.2	—	—	—	\$1.2	4%
IT, communications and call centers	\$0.3	—	\$0.8	—	\$1.1	4%
Equipment, maintenance and fueling of Red Cross emergency vehicles and rented trucks	\$0.5	—	—	—	\$0.5	2%
Temporary disaster hires	\$0.3	—	\$0.1	—	\$0.4	1%
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$16.3</b>	<b>\$0.7</b>	<b>\$5.0</b>	<b>\$4.7</b>	<b>\$26.7</b>	<b>91%</b>
Management, general and fundraising <sup>2</sup>					\$2.6	9%
<b>Total Expenses</b>					<b>\$29.3</b>	<b>100%</b>
Program dollars remaining to be spent					\$6.2	
Management, general and fundraising remaining to be applied					\$0.7	
<b>Total Budget</b>					<b>\$36.2</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Dollar figures in all tables are rounded to the nearest \$100,000; therefore, expenses \$49,999 and below are represented as zero.

<sup>2</sup>Management, general and fundraising expenses support our work at its core and are indispensable to running the organization and helping people in need. They include the people and systems to maintain our enterprise-wide computer and telecommunications, HR and payroll systems to support our more than 20,000 employees and approximately 300,000 volunteers, fundraising and communications functions, and other support services across all program lines. 91 cents of every dollar received for Hurricane Michael will be spent on our services to help people affected by Hurricane Michael.

*Thank you!*

The Red Cross must be ready for every disaster, big or small, and we respond to an average of more than 62,000 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.