



**American
Red Cross**

West Virginia Floods

One-Year Update | June 2017

After Devastating Floods, Red Cross Provided Relief and Comfort to Survivors

Imagine a wall of river water and debris speeding toward your home, or a rising creek swallowing everything in its path. In June 2016, these frightening images became reality for families across West Virginia, as record rainfalls led to devastating flash flooding. In hard-hit Greenbrier County alone, at least 15 people died and flooding was so violent that many homes were swept completely off their foundations. All told, 23 West Virginians lost their lives, and thousands of homes were destroyed or severely damaged.

In the face of this tragic destruction, more than 850 American Red Cross employees and volunteers mobilized to aid stricken communities and comfort survivors. Amidst chaos and uncertainty, families forced from their homes found refuge at Red Cross shelters, while our trained disaster workers served meals, provided relief supplies,

delivered basic health services and offered emotional support to people who had lost everything.

Ninety-year-old Lucille Chandler's home in Clendenin was flooded on June 23; thankfully, she and her daughter were rescued in a neighbor's boat. She was able to find refuge at the Red Cross shelter in Charleston. "I really appreciate what the Red Cross has done for me," said Lucille. "I have a problem walking, and the Red Cross volunteers bring me around in a wheelchair."

As residents returned to flood-battered communities to muck out waterlogged homes and salvage what they could, Red Cross emergency response vehicles were on hand. In these visible symbols of hope, volunteers brought food, water and cleanup supplies—as well as sympathetic ears and caring hugs for people coping with heartbreaking losses.

Response at a Glance

Over 850 Red Cross workers helped thousands of people impacted by the West Virginia floods, including:



More than **2,300**
overnight shelter stays



Nearly **200,000 meals**
and snacks served



More than **130,000**
relief items distributed



More than **8,500 health and**
mental health contacts made



More than **1,900 cases**
opened for people in need

– All numbers are cumulative and reflect Red Cross response efforts since June 23, 2016.

Above: Red Cross worker Joanna King speaks with Jessie and Jasmine Lewis and their cousin, Dalton Nazario (from left to right). Their home in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, was damaged in the flash flooding. Photo: Marko Kocik/American Red Cross.

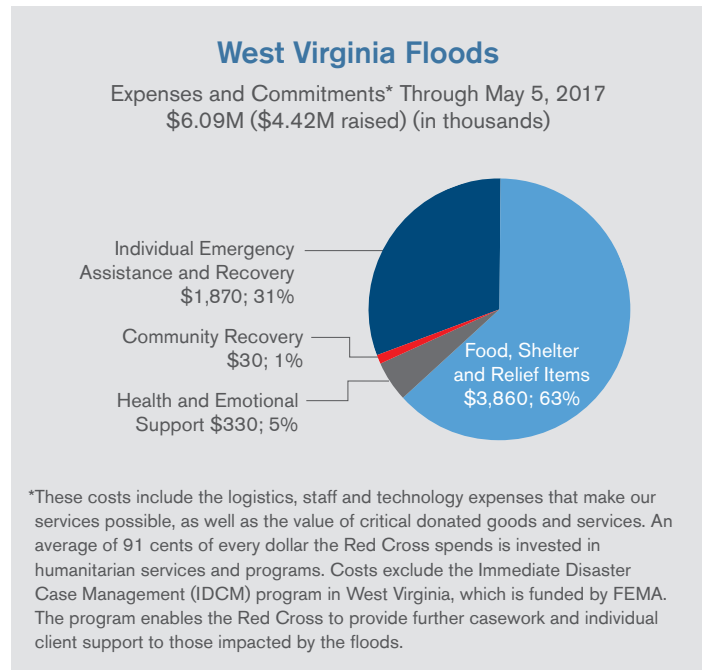
Red Cross Joins Partners to Support West Virginia's Recovery

Disaster recovery is often measured in months and years. As survivors put their lives back together, the Red Cross has worked alongside our recovery partners to help them build recovery plans, provide assistance for pressing needs and locate available resources from government, nonprofit and community organizations.

Since the 2016 floods, the Red Cross has provided long term recovery funding to flood victims and has helped to connect flooding victims with resources available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other partners. The main focus has been not only to assist clients with recovery, but also to give them a sense of pride in successfully getting their lives to a new normal after the devastating flooding.

For one grateful Roane County resident, Red Cross assistance proved especially important. Due to serious flood damage, he was forced to relocate, and then his new home was struck by a fire. The Red Cross helped this flood survivor replace hearing aids he had lost in the deluge and worked with the Roane County Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) to help him move into a new home. In Greenbrier County, the Red Cross worked with the county's LTRC and a generous local family to secure and install a wheelchair ramp for Sheila Martin, a disabled flood survivor who had been forced to relocate.

The Red Cross has also worked to ensure that affected individuals and families in counties that were not declared disaster areas are able to obtain assistance, in partnership with Catholic Charities and the West Virginia State Unmet Needs Committee.



Generous Donors Enable Relief and Recovery Efforts

As of May 5, 2017, the Red Cross has spent or made commitments to spend approximately \$6.09 million, including the value of critical donated goods and services, on relief and recovery efforts for the West Virginia floods. Thanks to compassionate supporters, the Red Cross has raised \$4.42 million to help people impacted by the June 2016 flash flooding in West Virginia. Costs above this amount will be covered by donations made to general Disaster Relief.

Thank you!

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.