



## Disaster Response Update to our Donors



The floods of August 2016 turned practically all of South Louisiana into an inland lake. Enough rain fell to fill Lake Pontchartrain four times, flooding about 140,000 households and rivaling the scope of devastation wrought by Superstorm Sandy. Neighborhoods, homes and businesses flooded that were well out of the flood plain, and the inundation exceeded a 1,000-year flood level. More than 30,000 people were rescued. Nearly 200,000 houses and businesses and 11 percent of the state's population was affected either directly or indirectly.

The day after the rain ceased, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge went to work, even though 20% of our staff were affected by the flood.

### Disaster Case Management starting immediately

Because we're the region's most experienced agency, FEMA requested we gear up for Immediate Disaster Case Management. Usually there's at least a 4-month lag. When fully ramped up, our agency staffing will increase 500%—surpassing Katrina levels. We expect to enroll 6,000 households, with an estimated \$200M in unmet recovery needs. **That's why your donation is so critical.**

So far, our Disaster Recovery Specialists have met with 1,600 heads of households (5,000 people), conducted an extensive needs assessment with each, and referred them to resources to help them begin their recovery. Of these, 644 were still living in shelters, and we are helping them to move to other housing—the biggest challenge throughout the area. We've spent \$12K on rent and other direct assistance like bus tickets, tire repair & work boots to meet this goal—all funded by our generous donors. As we enter the recovery phase in the coming weeks, this amount will increase tremendously.



### Relief Supply Distribution



In-kind donations have been coming in at a fairly steady rate from all over the country. Some from noteworthy individuals, such as Taylor Swift, The University of Alabama Football Team, Wal-Mart and Johnson & Johnson. To date, we delivered 200K tons of donated supplies (Valued at \$500K) and \$10K in gas and gift cards to 25 churches & nonprofits, serving an estimated 10K families. Inventory included cleaning supplies, masks, baby items, hygiene kits, food, paper products, pet food. In coming months, the needs will shift to household items and building supplies.

### People helping people—the Blessings of the Storm

Cash donations steadily flowed in from almost every State despite a lack of news coverage in the first few days. Texans donated the most! With an expected caseload of 6,000 households, we anticipate the unmet long-term recovery & rebuilding needs to top \$200M. As we've seen time and again since Katrina, we'll receive disaster case management funding for staff, computers, mileage, etc., but these contracts provide no dollars for home repairs or any type of financial assistance. To meet recovery goals, we rely on donated labor and donations **from people like you** to help close the \$200M gap.

### How can you continue to help?

Thank you for joining us in our mission as we help *"the least of these"* recover from this disaster. More help is needed. Please continue to pray for our community. Spread the word about this disaster. Give again, and enlist your friends, business or faith group to do the same. "Like" us on Facebook to get updates. Let us know how we can help.