

## HURRICANE/EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE, UPDATED

The Brookside Mission Ministry would like to let you know about two ways you can help the disaster victims of the three recent hurricanes and the **earthquake in Mexico on September 20**.

**Hurricane Harvey** arrived in the southern Texas on August 25 as a Category 4 hurricane and **Hurricane Irma** hit islands in the Caribbean early on Sept. 6 and caused widespread destruction and loss throughout the region. **Hurricane Irma** made landfall in Florida on Sunday, Sept. 10 with record-force winds and storm surges on the coasts. Millions of people in Florida evacuated or moved to approved shelters before the storm hit. On September 20 **Hurricane Maria** made a direct hit on the island of Puerto Rico. How much destruction is unknown but as of Thursday AM, the entire island of 3.411 million people was without power.

The UCC is part of response networks you see on the news and those you don't see. UCC Disaster Ministries already is gearing up for long-term recovery work in the region and your contributions for Irma survivors means providing community support for holistic recovery, repairing house and home for families and children and restoring dignity for the most vulnerable who have lost everything in the wake of this catastrophic event.

### UCC Disaster Ministries Responds. As of September 18, 2017:

- At least 2 UCC congregations in Florida lost steeples in Hurricane Irma. Florida Conference Minister, Conference Disaster Coordinators, and national staff are providing pastoral and coordinating support.
- \$1,500 solidarity/emergency grant to the Miami Shores Community Church (UCC) supporting the purchase of a generator, fuel, gas stoves for community cooking, purchasing and distributing ice.
- \$10,000 to IMA World Health for proactive program to prevent cholera and malnutrition in Haiti in the wake of Hurricane Irma, and to treat any instances that occur.
- \$10,000 to support partners in Cuba with the distribution of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), temporary shelter, non-food items, food security, recovery/livelihoods, and psycho-social support.
- \$10,000 to support work done by Church World Service in Northern Haiti where homes that were weakened by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 have now sustained additional damage.
- Annual contributions to the ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund through One Great Hour of Sharing Offering funds means we are supporting food security, non-food items, and WASH in the Dominican Republic.

## YOU CAN HELP

### Give generously to support hurricane relief and recovery efforts:

Gifts can be made through Brookside and marked for "Hurricane Relief." They can be placed in envelopes in the pews and put in the offering plate. Your gifts will be sent through UCC Conference office. If you would like more information about the UCC Disaster Relief Ministries, or to donate online, go to: <http://www.ucc.org/disaster>.

### If you would like to donate items for disaster victims:

Finders Keepers in Exeter, NH (<http://www.finderskeepersnh.com/>) are collecting items for disaster relief and have sent a truck to Texas this last week and will be sending another truck to Texas and a shipping container to the Caribbean Islands this week. The Mission Ministry will gather the items and deliver to the organization. You can put your donations in boxes marked 'disaster relief' in the back of the church or near the church offices. We hope to get the items to those in need as soon as possible so if you get them here by today or tomorrow we can get these delivered. They are asking for the following items.

- Towels and blankets
- Bug spray
- Toiletries
- Paper towels and reusable rags
- Cleaning and sanitizing products
- Brooms and mops
- Batteries (AA, AAA)
- Diapers
- Pet supplies (no food)
- Plastic/paper plates and utensils
- First aid products
- Food items must be restricted to in-date, non-perishable items like:
  - Canned pastas and soups
  - Granola and cereal bars
  - Peanut butter
  - Crackers
  - Tortilla wraps

If you have any questions you can contact the Mission Ministry through the church office at 669-2807 or Cindy Watts 540-8345.