

# *WNC Interfaith Disaster Response*

The referral/recovery system  
Cooperation, Coordination, Communication

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## **TOGETHER WE CAN!**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To strengthen western North Carolina disaster relief services through cooperation, coordination, communication and collaboration among local, state, federal, voluntary agencies, and religious organizations to simplify a disaster client's access to the referral/recovery system.

■ WNC Interfaith Disaster Response is a cooperative organization of charitable organizations operational in western North Carolina as a referral/recovery system.

■ WNC Interfaith Disaster Response is partnered with the NC Interfaith Disaster Response, Inc. which is a 501-3C non-profit corporation with by laws available.

■ WNC Interfaith Disaster Response was formed in response to widespread damage and flooding following hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Charlie in 2004. Hundreds of families were displaced, and millions of dollars worth of damage was done.

■ WNC Interfaith Disaster Response seeks grants and donations to insure the accomplishment of its Mission and to strengthen the western North Carolina disaster relief services.

The following representatives and organizations are partners in WNC Interfaith Disaster Response:

Mike Patterson – NC Interfaith Disaster Response/The Salvation Army, George Strunk – Lutheran Disaster Response, Mike Collins – United Methodist Disaster Response, Virginia Stevens - Presbytery of WNC, Charlie Moeller- NCVOAD, Rev. Scott Rogers – Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry, Donald Dossey - Grace Covenant Disaster Response Team.

### *Together We Can!*

### **Become a Partner with WNC Interfaith Disaster Response**

With all of the varied disaster recovery program possibilities, representatives of churches and other organizations that form the WNC Interfaith Disaster Response takes the initiative coordinating incoming information, organizes it and disseminates it to appropriate service organizations and agencies.

In this activity, churches, other religious organizations, and non-church agencies participating in the recovery phase of disaster response bring to a common table, cases of persons and families who continue to require aid after other assistance is exhausted. Then WNC Interfaith Disaster Response members discuss the cases and look to each other to help provide the assistance needed. Participation in WNC Interfaith Disaster Response committee, however, does not commit an organization to anything other than willingness to cooperate on behalf of survivors.

WNC Interfaith Disaster Response plays an important role in all phases of recovery in assuring that no disaster survivors fall between the cracks. This is the case for the current recovery phase of hurricane Frances and Ivan, but also true when future disaster strikes. Even if a group does not take the initiative in the organization of the WNC Interfaith Disaster Response committee, participation and attending meetings provides a coordinated voice at them.

So, if you or your organization have not partnered with the WNC Interfaith Disaster Response group yet, we suggest you do so now. Let's all help in simplifying the disaster victims access to a coordinated referral/recovery system

### **Grace Covenant**

### **Disaster Response Team in WNC**

Donald Dossey, Director of Disaster Response, reports that four mission teams assisted in rebuilding flood victims homes in Clyde, NC, two of its volunteers got certified as Early Responders, thanks to UMCOR and LDR. Eight members were certified for the Chain Saw Team, eight trained in water testing and treatment.

A Casework Managers Training is scheduled on Thursday, January 20, from 9-3 at Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry offices. Also, a CERT training for the WNC community will be held at the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in the first two weeks in February. To register or for more information about either of these trainings, contact Donald Dossey at 828-712-1311 or drdossey@drdossey.com.

### United Methodist Disaster Response working hard in WNC

Mike Collins, Coordinator of the United Methodist Disaster Response, Western North Carolina Conference, has been busy. He reported on December 6th, some of the activity that has been going on in western North Carolina.

- ◆ Numerous supplies given out to over 800 families,
- ◆ Numerous homes cleaned out/torn out,
- ◆ 18 homes presently in Casework,
- ◆ 2,000 Flood Buckets collected from WNCC-UMC Churches. TRAINING SEMINARS have been taking place,
  - ◆ Caseworker Training Seminar held in October and one in November,
  - ◆ Early Responder Training Seminar held in November and
  - ◆ UMCOR Basic Disaster Training Seminar is scheduled for January 20 (place to be announced)
  - ◆ \$15,000 ear-marked for 3 new Early Response Teams, 2005

And that is just a few things. Mike Collins can be contacted at [mcollins@wnccumc.org](mailto:mcollins@wnccumc.org) .

Mike told me he wants everyone in WNC to participate in the WNC Interfaith Disaster Response. (see page one.)



Photos by Dossey

Grace Covenant Disaster Response Team volunteers putting up sheet rock at victim's home in Clyde, NC

- JOIN NOW -

#### WNC INTERFAITH DISASTER RESPONE

If you or you organization have not partnered with the WNC Interfaith Disaster Response yet, we suggest you do so now. Come to our next metting on January 24 at the Clyde UMC at 10am.

Let's all help in simplifying the current and future disaster victims access to a coordinated referral/recovery system in western North Carolina.

For more information, contact Donald Dossey at 828-712-1311 or [drdossey@drdossey.com](mailto:drdossey@drdossey.com)

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**Referral/recovery system**  
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### NEXT MEETING

#### WNC INTERFAITH DISASTER RESPONE

**DATE: Monday, January 24**

**TIME: 10:00 am**

**PLACE: Clyde Central United Methodist Church**

410 Charles St.,Clyde, NC 28721 828.627.228