

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Hurricane Sandy Relief

Nov 1, 2012-Dec 31, 2012

January 7, 2013

To FEMA Volunteer Agency Liaisons in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut:

Please accept this report of Mormon Helping Hands activities to preserve health and habitation of residents affected by Hurricane Sandy between November 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. Although major operations ceased in mid-December, local smaller operations will continue through the end of January, 2013.

Sincerely,

VOAD Representatives from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

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Mormon Helping Hands Community and Disaster Response

Mormon Helping Hands is a program of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to provide community service and disaster relief to those in need. The “Mormon Helping Hands” designation helps identify the Church’s role in the activity: to provide service laborers and usually not goods or materials.

After disasters and throughout the year, local members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints don yellow t-shirts and vests and go to work. No members, ministers, or administrative volunteers receive payment or stipends for their services. Most volunteers live in the local community and must balance full-time jobs, family responsibilities, and personal hurricane recovery while selflessly donating their weekends to help strangers, often for months at a time.

Thousands of members who are physically unable to muck out homes donate tens of thousands of hours in food preparation, command center support, donations management, phone bank management, babysitting, and other critically supportive activities. In addition to church service, many Mormons are also active in community relief efforts through other community organizations.

After a disaster, the primary focus of Mormon Helping Hands service is to preserve health and habitation. Mormon Helping Hands’ strength is turning out large numbers of unskilled volunteers in the 72-hour to 8-week timeframe after a disaster.

For Mormons, service is a core tenant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For example, 3,848 Mormon Helping Hands volunteers helped thousands of people after Hurricane Irene, donating 33,241 hours of service. After this summer's derecho storms in Southern New Jersey, nearly 700 Mormon Helping Hands volunteers spent 4,859 hours helping more than 300 seniors remove downed trees. During our annual Day of Service on July 21, 2012, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints served their communities in a number of ways, including:

- Liberty State Park clean-up
- Barbeques for developmentally disabled individuals living in Enable group homes
- Backpacks assembled for needy children
- Harvesting food for the needy for Grow-a-Row
- Bridge painting and park clean-up in Roxbury Township
- Clean-up of historical cemetery in Randolph Township
- Weeding and clean-up at Urban farm, Lafayette School, which provides food for local food banks
- Painting and laying tile floor at The Neighborhood House in Morristown
- Clean-up and mulching Sparta community sports park
- Food drive for Eva's Kitchen in Paterson
- Cot cleaning and preparation for the Red Cross on Long Island
- Mulching Yellow Hiking Trail in Forrest Park, Queens
- Painting, repairing, weeding and cleaning The Point Community Center in The Bronx
- Food and clothing drive for "Family of New Paltz
- Preparing section of park for planting in Riverside Park, New York.

Mormon Helping Hands Community Response to Hurricane Sandy

Between November 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012, at least 27,000 volunteers with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donated at least 132,443 hours directly assisting 3,782 households to preserve health and habitation by arresting the spread of mold and preparing the home for restoration. Volunteers removed soaked drywall, carpet and other porous materials, debris, trees, and performed related unskilled labor. We prioritize the health and habitation needs of the elderly, disabled and first responders. Religious affiliation is irrelevant to service.

Mormon Helping Hands worked in close coordination with FEMA, state and local Offices of Emergency Management, VOAD organizations in the tri-state area, and dozens of other relief organizations. During an average week between 4,000 and 6,600 Mormon Helping Hands volunteers assisted in clean-up efforts in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Appendix 1 documents Mormon Helping Hands activities by County and State for November 1 through December 31, 2012. We have been careful to include only volunteer time spent on-site, excluding travel time, administrative support time, etc.

Mormon Helping Hands Organization

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a world-wide church with more than 14 million members and a lay ministry. The Church is organized into areas called "stakes," which are the

ecclesiastical analog to a Catholic diocese. Each stake is led by a **Stake President**, who typically appoints a temporary **Incident Captain** to manage the day-to-day operations of the stake disaster response. The Incident Captain directs 5-20 **Team Leaders**, each of whom leads a team of 8-20 **Volunteers**. Each stake typically contributes 50-1,000 volunteers, depending on a number of factors including the distance the volunteers must travel.

Each stake operates in a highly coordinated but autonomous manner. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, stakes from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts all participated in clean-up efforts. Hundreds of other members of the Church from around the country also assisted.

Because more than 25,000 Mormon Helping Hands Volunteers participated in direct or supportive service, we were unable to document the names of each volunteer. However, we have included a list of Incident Captains and a few Team Leaders and Stake Presidents in **Appendix 2**. Each individual in **Appendix 2** was responsible for directing between 50 and 1,100 volunteers.

Conclusion

It has been an honor serving with and alongside so many disaster relief organizations in this labor of love. We hope that state and local officials are able to take full advantage of FEMA offsets due to the work of Mormon Helping Hands volunteers.

Appendix 1: Mormon Helping Hands Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts

By County and State, 11/1/2012 through 12/31/2012			
	Closed Work Orders	Volunteer Hours	FEMA Offset Value*
Fairfield, CT	72	4,019.3	\$85,853.08
Middlesex, CT	4	104.5	\$2,232.12
New Haven, CT	114	2,820.3	\$60,240.92
Atlantic, NJ	10	296.2	\$6,326.00
Bergen, NJ	190	5,258.4	\$112,319.25
Burlington, NJ	28	1,098.5	\$23,464.26
Cumberland, NJ	1	24.0	\$512.64
Essex, NJ	37	1,100.0	\$23,495.81
Hudson, NJ	150	3,124.1	\$66,731.14
Hunterdon, NJ	5	194.5	\$4,154.52
Mercer, NJ	17	761.7	\$16,270.92
Middlesex, NJ	194	7,566.7	\$161,625.59
Monmouth, NJ	416	17,268.1	\$368,846.32
Morris, NJ	16	423.5	\$9,045.96
Ocean, NJ	314	14,114.7	\$301,490.21
Passaic, NJ	1	12.0	\$256.32
Somerset, NJ	51	1,540.8	\$32,911.25
Sussex, NJ	6	138.0	\$2,947.68
Union, NJ	79	2,125.0	\$45,389.12
Kings, NY	417	13,169.9	\$281,308.83
Nassau, NY	194	5,240.6	\$111,939.88
New York, NY	2	23.1	\$493.97
Queens, NY	1055	38,763.1	\$827,979.75
Richmond, NY	299	9,876.6	\$210,963.90
Rockland, NY	3	0.0	\$0.00
Suffolk, NY	103	3,316.7	\$70,844.24
Westchester, NY	3	62.2	\$1,328.12
Connecticut Subtotal	190	6,944.1	\$148,326.13
New Jersey Subtotal	1,516	55,046.2	\$1,175,786.98
New York Subtotal	2,076	70,452.2	\$1,504,858.69
Total	3,782	132,442.5	\$2,828,971.80

* \$21.36 per hour

Appendix 2: Mormon Helping Hands Incident Captains

Mormon Helping Hands was unable to capture the names of the more than 25,000 volunteers who participated in direct or supportive service to the Hurricane Sandy cleanup effort. However, we were able to capture the names of Incident Captains, Stake Presidents, and other key volunteers below. Each of these individuals was responsible for directing between 50 and 1,000 volunteers over a two-month period. Work continues in some areas.

Fischer, Lukas
Fryer, Tod
Geurts, Bryan
Harrison, Vernon
Holman, Glade
Jacobsen, Wade
Jessop, Tad
John, Wynn
Johnson, Scott
Kelly, Caryl
Kelly, Steve
Landry, Steve
LeSueur, Patty
Long, Howard
Ludlow, Neils

Manchester, Cindy
Martin, Dave
Martin, Scott
Mathusek, Jeff
McClain, Jim
McFadden, John
Moessing, Greg
Ng, Kenneth
Ng, Veronica
Olson, Jeffery
Orellana, Jose
Pankratz, Connie
Pascual, Emily
Portlock, David
Richards, Barrett
Roberts, John

Scotto, Mike
Sitchler, David
Smith, Robyn
Snell, Jared
Stringham, Robert
Swan, Ben
Thompson, Jared
Thompson, Todd
Titus, Aaron
Ward, Bryan
Webb, Kelly
Weidler, Ralph
Weinert, Steven
Wilson, Priscila
Young, Bradford
Zmuda, Andy