



*Responding to Local
Disasters Nationally*

Effects of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria are still being felt

People still need help in all of Florida, parts of Texas, Georgia, Alabama, the Carolinas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul National Council has issued a national domestic disaster appeal. Hurricane Irma hit the state of Florida as a Category 5 hurricane, the most powerful hurricane ever recorded (National Hurricane Center, September 5, 2017), right on the heels of flooding and devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Irma left miles of destruction throughout the entire state of Florida and into adjoining states. Just 15 days after Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida, Puerto Rico took a direct hit from Hurricane Maria, a Category 4 hurricane (The Washington Post, September 21, 2017). The U.S. Virgin Islands suffered a one-two punch when they were hit hard by both Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

In Texas and Florida, the recovery effort is still very active as Vincentians carry on with their work touching the hearts of many who are suffering. The recovery in both states will likely take several years. The Society will soon begin operating a House in a Box® warehouse in both Texas and Florida while continuing to fundraising.

In Puerto Rico, which is home to nearly 3.4 million U.S. citizens, according to CNN, more than 70 percent of the population is still without power and many still do not have access to clean drinking water. The island nation is in dire need of support and assistance. SVdP Disaster Services has been working with Vincentian leadership in Puerto Rico as well as with national partners to get resources to Puerto Rico. Vincentians have been deployed to map out logistics for ground support and prepare for the Society's next phase of assistance in the recovery process.

The Virgin Islands is home to more than 106,000 Americans according to the Census Bureau. In the Virgin Islands, more than 80 percent of the residents are still without power. The entire Virgin Islands territory is currently under a boil-water advisory. SVdP Disaster Services is in contact with Vincentians on the ground in the Virgin Islands and are working to send much-needed supplies.



Vincetians in the U.S. Virgin Islands handed out hand-crank radios to hurricane survivors to use until power to their homes is restored.

SVdP Disaster Services are needed now more than ever! Volunteers are on the ground in the affected areas to assist with long term recovery needs. Your contribution is critical to meeting the needs of those of who have lost everything!

[\(Click here to support SVdP relief efforts\)](#)

We have established hotlines for both Hurricane Harvey (877-368-6494) and Hurricane Irma (888-507-2722) that our Councils can call or refer survivors to if they need information on shelters, temporary housing, or parish, FEMA, state and community resources.

Please help ensure that SVdPUSA Disaster Services has the means to support the recovery needs of these hurricanes by making a donation to the Domestic Disaster Fund!

[\(Click here to support SVdP relief efforts\)](#)



With your help and the help of SVdP Conferences and Councils, we will be armed with the needed resources. One of the most important resources is to ensure the Domestic Disaster Fund is sufficient to help during these times of crisis. These funds help to support SVdP resources needed to respond to disasters across the United States.

Immediate and critical needs are support of the local Disaster Rapid Response Teams, Disaster Case Management services, gift cards for immediate needs of displaced families, temporary shelter and eventually the House in a Box® Program (90-120 days out at a minimum).

SVdP's House in a Box program restores lives one house at a time. This program was implemented to supply disaster survivors with critical items to furnish an entire home from the kitchen to the bathroom to the bedroom, including furniture, dishes, towels, utensils and bed linens. A contribution of \$2,500 covers a House in a Box program for four people.



[\(Click here to support SVdP disaster relief efforts\)](#)

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria are just three of many domestic disasters responded to by the National Disaster Services of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Your donation helps to support the SVdP Domestic Disaster resources needed to respond to disasters across the United States. Thank you if you have already made a donation and for your continued support.

Please consider supporting the Domestic Disaster Fund. For online donations, there is a drop-down menu on the donation form. You can choose to donate to Hurricane Maria relief, Hurricane Harvey relief, Hurricane Irma relief or to support House in a Box program or General Domestic Disaster relief.

**If you prefer to support SVdPUSA's disaster relief by check, please send it to:
National Council of the United States
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
58 Progress Parkway
Maryland Heights, MO 63043**

(Be sure to write "Harvey, Irma, Maria or Domestic Disaster Relief Fund" in the memo field)

We are deeply thankful for all you do to give glory to God by giving to those in need!