



From left, Jim Butler, Mideast Disaster Chair, Nancy Hill, Vincentian from the SVdP Diocesan Council of Wheeling-Charleston and Father Rene Giron from the Church of the Risen Lord in Clay County, W.V.



## ***Help Needed With Disaster Recovery!***

***Disaster Victims Need Your Financial Help!***

***Support the SVdPUSA Domestic Disaster Relief Fund [\(click here\)](#)***

***Contributions to the SVdPUSA Domestic Disaster Fund provide direct support to Vincentians for disaster relief efforts.***

**Have you noticed?** Disasters are in the news almost every day! The United States ranks second globally with the most natural disasters (according to Statista Inc., a leading weather statistic company). Already in 2017, there have been five disaster events with each having losses exceeding \$1 billion. This is very alarming as from 1980-2016 these \$1 billion disaster events averaged 5.5 events annually. Already this year we are approaching the record number of billion-dollar disasters that impacted the U.S. in 2016 (according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA], a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce).

These disaster events have greatly impacted the need for the services from the National Council's Disaster Services Division and increased the need for funding from the SVdPUSA Domestic Disaster Fund.

Imagine waking up one morning and everything you own is gone! All of your worldly belongings, your family pictures, your kitchen table, your favorite chair, your food, clothing, and car are missing. Families hurt by domestic disasters will be waking up each day with a need to replace the entire contents of their home.

**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 will help to support the Domestic Disaster Division resources needed to respond to disasters across the United States. With the increasing number of disasters, you can help ensure there are adequate resources to assist our neighbors in need.**

**You can help, and your Conference and Council can help by making a donation to the SVdPUSA Domestic Disaster Fund.**

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



SVdPUSA Disaster Services Division in Louisiana providing Disaster Case Management services with Mr. Mack from northern Louisiana. The picture is from a home visit surveying the damage of his home caused by the devastating flooding.

Right Now: The SVdPUSA Disaster Services Division is providing on-site training, Rapid Response Grants, Long-Term Recovery Grants, Disaster Case Management and ongoing support to rural communities in:

- **Goldsboro, NC** where 6,720 households were impacted by Hurricane Matthew
- **Naplate, IL** where 60 homes were destroyed by tornado damage
- **Ottawa, IL** where 22 homes were destroyed by tornadoes
- **Tehachapi, CA** where 248 homes were destroyed by the Erskine Fires
- **Lower Lake, CA** where 1,300 homes were impacted by wildfires and recovery is ongoing
- **Butte County, CA** where 863 homes were impacted by wildfires

- **Calaveras County, CA** where 2,200 homes were impacted by wildfires
- **DeWitt, NE** where 500 homes were impacted by floods and recovery has been ongoing for the last two years
- **Monroe, LA** where 3,085 homes were impacted by floods and recovery is ongoing
- **Natchitoches, LA** where 936 homes were impacted by floods and recovery is ongoing
- **Clay County, WV** where 500 homes suffered serious structural damage from floods

SVdPUSA Disaster Services role is a long-term program, taking years to rebuild even a small community. Elizabeth Disco Shearer, COO-SVdP Disaster Services Division, said, “Long-term recovery takes from two to five years and SVdP provides disaster case managers to help families map a long-term plan for recovery, and our House in a Box® Program provides new households items for families that have lost everything. Also, Long-Term Disaster Economic Recovery Programs help to bring together the business, education, non-governmental and government sectors to help rebuild the local economy and provide long-term resiliency. We can provide Disaster Case Management services and refer families to volunteer groups that can help rebuild their homes, but if we fail to help rebuild the business community and provide employment opportunities for disaster survivors, then families will not be able to sustain their homes.”

To get a comprehensive overview of the SVdPUSA Disaster Services activities, look at the map showing the work being done from small rural communities to larger cities.

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

### SVdPUSA Disaster Services Active Locations



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

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 "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!

In gratitude,

Sheila Gilbert,  
National President