On April 27th, 2011 an F5 tornado struck Huntsville/Madison County Alabama, destroying its power grid, and leaving some people powerless for up to ten days. See Report.

The Bradley Resource Staging Center (BRSC-“warehouse”), has now closed, all remaining goods have been distributed out. See Report.

ACS Presents Leadership Reach Out Sessions

Learn Ways to Help Church Growth through Community Outreach Ministries.

Workshops: Community Development/Urban Ministry
Crisis Care - Spiritual/Emotional
Elder Care
Disaster Response
YES! Youth Empowered to Serve

Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program
Northeastern Conference

ACS Leadership Development Reach Out Convention
Hosted by Kansas-Nebraska Conference
August 20-21, 2011
College View Church
4801 Prescott Ave
Lincoln, Nebraska

To Register Contact: John Treolo - jtreolo@ks-ne.org or 785.478.4726

More Information: Click here
Mobile PACS COW Food Pantry Serves the Underserved

The Truth about Church Donations to Disaster Relief

Seattle Community Impact Service Event
September 3, 2011
Seattle, Washington Area
2:00 - 7:30 p.m.
www.washingtonconference.org/Seattle
or call Colette at (253) 681-6608
This report reflects the operation of the Hi Lo Distribution / Donation Warehouse located in Huntsville, Alabama.

On April 27th, 2011 an F5 tornado struck Huntsville/Madison County Alabama, destroying its power grid, and leaving some people powerless for up to ten days. Several homes and communities were totally destroyed. By May 1st, the "Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Team for N. Alabama", in conjunction with the Madison Co. EMA, had established what could only be considered a combination Warehouse, Collections, and Distribution Center. Because of the excellent Media coverage, Donors, Volunteers, and Survivors started responding almost immediately. Over the next 11 weeks we, along with our Satellite Distribution Center (The Harvest SDA Church) in Harvest, Alabama, served over 5,000 families with some repeats.

- Number of Volunteers: 818
- Number of Volunteer Hours: 10,249.26
- **Volunteer Valuation Rate** × **Hours Served** = **Value of volunteer time**
  - (2010) $21.36 per hour × 10,249.26 = $218,924.19
- Number of Clients Served: 5,108
- Donated Goods Value: $2.2 Million Dollars

Millions of items, including food, water, household items, furniture, appliances, baby items, personal care kits, and cleaning supplies were given.

For over 2 months, the Hi Lo Distribution/Donation Warehouse was the hot spot for meeting the unmet needs of communities far and near. We also handled referrals and worked in conjunction with other agencies. We had the complete support of Public Officials as well as the Media. High praise was given to the "Adventist" for superb service.

In preparation for the close down, donated goods were distributed to 17 Charitable Organizations and Local Churches.

**Vernon Giles,**
Adventist Community Services
Disaster Response Coordinator for North Alabama

June 30, 2011

**The Bradley Resource Staging Center** (BRSC - "warehouse"), has now closed, all remaining goods have been distributed out.
The Resource Staging Center opened May 2 in response to a request from the Bradley County Emergency Management Office. We closed to the receiving of goods on June 20, and distributed the remaining items and were completely out of the building by Tuesday, June 28.

Here are some stats:

Since we were strictly a warehouse operation, we did not serve victims directly. We mainly served 2 distribution sites; the Bamey Lane Distribution Center, operated by the Salvation Army in Bradley County, and the Lester Coon Elementary School Distribution Center, operated by the Apison SDA Church, located in Hamilton County.

The BRSC was open for nearly 2 months, and in that time, we:

- had 16 people involved in management services at one time or another
- management staff put in 3368.16 hours of volunteer time
- had 54 other volunteers, who added another 600 hours of volunteer time
- this adds up to $75,393.52 in free labor, according to FEMA rates
- handled $362,927.00 worth of goods for both counties
- distributed goods, upon closedown, to 35 other governmental and social service agencies
- distributed goods to local agencies who serve people on a daily basis, and who will be handling an increased workload in the coming year

From this point on, most "emergency" cases' needs have been met, and the social services agencies will pick up the slack. The Samaritan Center will handle most casework for victims in the Apison area. The volunteer hours are an important factor that local, state and federal governments use to determine what the states have to pay when a federal disaster has been declared. FEMA pays 75% of the costs, and the state has to pay 25%. The volunteer hours, which FEMA rates at about $19/hr, is deducted from the states' share of the equation; therefore. ACS/DR has contributed $75,393.52 toward the state's share of the cost of this disaster. I think you will find that ACS/DR has been a major contributor to the overall cost of the recovery.

Terry Haight
Georgia-Cumberland Conference
ACS/DR Coordinator
ACS Presents - Reach Out!

Learn ways to help church growth through community outreach ministries.

ACS Reach Out! Track Titles

ACS Reach Out! Track Descriptions

ACS Reach Out! 2011 Schedule

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<td>College View Church 4801 Prescott Avenue</td>
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<td><a href="#">Poster-Ad</a></td>
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<td>Oct. 14-16</td>
<td>Carolina</td>
<td>Nosoca Pines Ranch 2990 Singleton Creek Road</td>
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<td>Georgia-Cumberland</td>
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Additional links on this topic:

*Work Shop Titles*

*Workshop Track Descriptions*

*2012 ACS Reach Out Schedule*
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Six Tracks:

1. Community Development/Financial Resource Development
   a. To understand biblical concepts to improve participants’ abilities to minister in a dynamic environment.
   b. To learn about community needs assessment and program development.
   c. To learn about financial resource development and basic grant writings

2. Crisis Care – Spiritual & Emotional
   Pastoral/Spiritual Crisis Intervention (Requires 13 hours to meet requirements for continuing education units.): For pastors, professionals and lay volunteers involved in more intensive individual crisis intervention and crisis response teams.

3. Disaster Response (Certification)
   a. Introduction to Disaster Preparedness
   b. Donations Operations

4. Elder Care
   This ministry promotes Christ-centered, practical and sustainable solutions to successful holistic aging. It coordinates education and services related to aging, health, finance and social issues for seniors in the church and community in collaboration with community-based elder care and caregiver programs.

5. Tutoring & Mentoring
   ACS Tutoring & Mentoring Program offers comprehensive leadership training for those with an interest in organizing a community-based tutoring and/or mentoring program.

6. Youth Empowered to Serve (YES!)
   YES! aims to promote established service ministries developed by young people through social networking, multi-media, and youth conferences, while at the
same time fostering a healthy environment for developing Creative Ministries of Compassion among young people.
Restoring Dignity

Asking for help with basic needs can be humiliating. Yet thousands in Portland must do it every day. In the PACS food pantry, health clinic and thrift store, the goal is not simply to meet basic needs for struggling families, but to give a little bit of dignity back to each person in the process, as Christ did. It is a vital step in the process of empowerment and inspiration that these individuals need to get back on their feet.

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011

For families in underserved areas, PACS launches a mobile food pantry

Monday night was the first food run for the recently finished PACS COW Mobile Pantry (COW stand for “commodities on wheels”). Food was provided to 21 families (a total of 91 people) from 6 – 8 p.m.

The pantry is the brainchild of PACS’ Executive Director, Paul L. Cole, who developed the “client choice” mobile pantry concept after a volunteer asked how we could help people in her neighborhood, where there were many needy families, but no food pantries. The concept is designed to reduce the time and financial stress for these families, caused by the need for long drives or bus rides to the nearest emergency food center.

The PACS COW was built from a snowmobile trailer, converted on the inside to include shelves and lighting in a walkthrough, grocery store-style setup that works like PACS’ on-site food pantry in NE Portland.

Here are some pictures of the first PACS COW opening, hosted in Troutdale, Oregon by Frontier Missions:
Restoring Dignity: For families in underserved areas, PACS launches a mobile food pantry.

The exit ramp at the back of the trailer can also double as an entrance to facilitate handicapped access.

Volunteer, Rosemary Loun, organizes the shelves before food clients arrive.

Clients have arrived!
Restoring Dignity: For families in underserved areas, PACS launches a mo...
Restoring Dignity: For families in underserved areas, PACS launches a mo...
The Truth about Church Donations to Disaster Relief

"Should churches and charitable organizations be allowed tax exempt status?" What do your donations to Adventist Community Services Disaster Relief (ACS/DR) really accomplish?

In response to tornadoes that hit Tennessee and Georgia this past April, financial donations received for disaster relief have totaled $147,410.11. More is always needed. DONATE

A good example of how ACS/DR responds can be found in the report from the GA-Cumberland Conference, which had three operations going on during the April 27 tornado response: A warehouse (Bradley Resource Staging Center/BRSC in Cleveland, Tenn., the Lester Coon Elementary School Distribution Center (Apison SDA Church), in Apison, Tenn. and the Griffin Distribution Center in Griffin, Ga.). During the two months these places operated, they:

- had 20 people involved in management services who put in 4,358 hours of volunteer time
- had 520 other volunteers, who added another 5,696 hours of volunteer time
- this adds up to $191,026.00 in free labor, according to FEMA rates ($19/hour)
- handled $362,970.00 worth of donated goods for both Bradley and Hamilton Counties (Tenn.)
- served 349 families (833 individuals) from the distribution centers
- distributed goods upon close-down to 35 other governmental and social service agencies
- distributed goods to other local agencies who serve people on a daily basis, and who will be handling an increased workload in the coming year

Terry Haight, disaster response coordinator for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and special assistant to Allan Williamson, Southern Union ACS/DR Director, offers a revealing explanation for how such information is used to figure the cost of a disaster:

"The volunteer hours are an important factor that governments use to determine what the states have to pay when a federal disaster has been declared," he said. "FEMA pays 75% of the costs, and the state has to pay 25%. Therefore, these three ACS/DR operations have contributed $191,020.00 of service toward the state's share of disaster relief. This is in addition to the 'free' service that we provided for them, relieving a headache that donated goods always causes them.

"I think you will find that ACS/DR has been a major contributor to the overall cost of the recovery. In fact, one of our selling points to local and state governments is that the money recovered from our labor more than pays for the cost of operating a warehouse. When you consider that a few weeks ago we had 15 operations going at the same time nationwide, I think the Lord has given us an exceptional opportunity to serve our country and to demonstrate that the Lord we serve is interested in victims' well-being!"

This report gives us a quick view of results just in terms of "official" management in one area. However, this does not really begin to tell what it does for each individual recipient of goods and services. "These are only the volunteer hours put in for 'official' ACS/DR activities, says Haight. "The Apison Church (as well as several other SDA churches in the area) put in untold hours cutting trees, clearing debris, feeding volunteers, doing individual mobile distribution and all the other things that are required to assist following a disaster of this magnitude. They are still helping out individual families. There is no record (except in the Heavenly Books) of how many hours have been spent doing these things."

http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab6f2&id...