Colorado Wildfires
The High Park fire in the mountains just west of Fort Collins, Colorado, has currently claimed 189 homes and nearly 60,000 acres.

The Adventist Community Services Disaster Response team - the lead agency in charge of donations management, in partnership with Larimer County, has now opened a Donation Collection and Distribution Center in the former Mervyns store at Foothills Mall in Fort Collins. [View News Story]

CNN news has been highlighting the Colorado wildfire situation over the past 48 hours as the Waldo Canyon fire blew up. Immediately following their updates on the fires, they encourage people to do what they can to support the volunteer efforts being waged in Colorado right now. [See News Clip]

Learn Ways to Help Church Growth through Community Outreach Ministries.
[More Details]

Upcoming Events
Ohio Conference Community Services Seminar
July 14-15, 2012
Worthington SDA Church
Community Development
Disaster Response
Tutoring/Mentoring
[For More Information]

Allegheny West Community Reach Out
August 17-19, 2012
Allegheny West Campground
6510 Oakthorpe Rd.
Thornville, OH 43076
Community Development
Elder Care
Tutoring/Mentoring

Community News

Ride Across America for Diapers

“One man and a bike, peddling 3,000 miles for a million diapers. On July 8, 2012, Pastor Eric Shadle (Richland Seventh-day Adventist Church) will begin a cross-country bicycle trip from Richland, Washington to Silver Spring, Maryland by September 5, 2012. He hopes to raise awareness of the need many children have for diapers in this country. His goal is to raise $250,000 to
purchase 1 million diapers that will be distributed across America. For more information or how you can help visit: www.ride4diapers.com. A program of Adventist Community Services.” Find Ride4Diapers on Facebook.

ACS Newsletter
Adventist Community Services
North American Division
www.communityservices.org
High Park Fire donation center ready to give, receive

LARIMER COUNTY, Colo. — People across Colorado want to do their part to help the hundreds of victims of the High Park Fire. Now, a donation center in Fort Collins is serving as a clearing house for the massive donations that are expected over the next few weeks.

At the Foothills Mall in Fort Collins they’re not gearing up for a sale or clearance, but for a cause.

In what was once a Mervyn’s now stands a warehouse for the High Park Fire weary.

It is a large location for those looking to donate and those looking to receive, and where the only tags are yellow ones that say “free.”

“I have worked Katrina, the Windsor tornado, Four Mile Canyon,” says Cathy Kissner, with Adventist Disaster Response. “We sort it, we set it up in boxes, and then we set up a store [with] the gifts the community has given them.“

The donation center is also looking for items ranging from diapers to pet food to laundry detergent.

“If any disaster happens in the country, we immediately respond to it,” says Koy McKoy, with Americorp. “A lady brought in a bucketful of dolls. I was just thinking about the children.”

Children, adults, animals—all affected by fire, and in many cases now forced to start over with one-stop shopping under one roof.

The Red Cross is also doing its part to help evacuees.

On Monday they opened their bulk distribution center at The Ranch in Loveland.

Volunteers are putting kits together that include sifters, shovels, rakes, work gloves and masks.

The items are to help clean up the mess that’s left behind from the fire fight.

“Once they do get to go back to their homes, there’s going to be a mess there,” says Bill Fortune with American Red Cross. “Our hope is when they’re back there cleaning it up our goal is to make it safe.”

The kits also include personal items for home owners to help start the re-building process.
Help for wildfire evacuees and first responders - CNN.com

By Julie Hays, CNN
updated 8:56 AM EDT, Thu June 28, 2012

(CNN) -- A raging wildfire has forced 32,000 residents to evacuate their homes near Colorado Springs, Colorado. Extreme heat and winds gusting to 65 mph fueled the Waldo Canyon Fire as it broke through containment lines Tuesday afternoon.

"It's horrific and terrifying and all those things, you know, we firefighters dread seeing," Colorado Springs Fire Department spokeswoman Sunny Smaldino told CNN's Carol Costello.

The fire doubled in size overnight, and 15,324 acres were burning by Wednesday morning, fire officials said.

"Right now, we're asking anybody who would like to help to donate to the Red Cross, and that will help all of the families that are going to be in need," Smaldino said.

Dave Rose, an El Paso County information officer, said one in four callers to the joint information center is offering food for firefighters, shelter for displaced neighbors or to volunteer in some capacity.

Reactions: Monster fire terrorizes a Colorado city

The Red Cross has opened four shelters for evacuees from the Waldo Canyon Fire. It is also providing shelter, meals and mental health services for victims of multiple fires in Colorado and neighboring Utah and New Mexico.

To support the Red Cross, go online, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or text the word "REDCROSS" to 90999 to make a $10 donation via your cell phone bill.

The Salvation Army is also responding to the needs of fire evacuees across the region, including coordinating meals at two shelters in Colorado Springs. Local volunteers can register to help with relief.
Colorado fire 'smacks you in the face'

Colorado Wildfires Force Evacuations

To make a donation to the Salvation Army's disaster response team, go online or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY. Designate donations for "Disaster Relief" or "Wildfires."

New app tracks Colorado wildfires

Six other wildfires remain active across the state, and five more were recently fully contained, according to the Colorado Department of Emergency Management.

The largest active blaze is the High Park Fire near Fort Collins, which has burned 87,250 acres and is only 55% contained.

The Adventist Community Services Disaster Response team opened a donation center to help victims of the High Park Fire at Foothills Mall in Fort Collins.

"We need approximately a hundred volunteers a day to collect the donations coming in and sort them ... and also help with people as they're coming through shopping, because they're in a daze, quite..."
honestly," said ACS Community LIFT Communications Coordinator Donna Webb.

The center most urgently needs new socks and underwear, personal care items, camping gear, men's jeans, work boots and nonperishable food items. For a complete list of needs and volunteer opportunities at the center, visit HelpColoradoNow.org. To support Adventist Community Services Community LIFT's disaster response efforts, donate online.

Among the first responders battling the High Park Fire are volunteers from Rist Canyon, Glacier View and Poudre Canyon Volunteer Fire Departments. Each department accepts donations to support their response efforts and pay for supplies and equipment.

Donations to the Rist Canyon VFD can be mailed to RCVFD-Reasurer, P.O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512, or visit RCVFD.org to donate via Paypal.

To support the Glacier View VFD, mail check donations to 1414 Green Mountain Drive, Livermore, CO 80536.

Poudre Canyon Volunteer Fire Department is accepting check donations mailed to P.O. Box 364, LaPorte, CO 80535, or call Canyon Utilities at 970-881-2262 to make a credit card donation to the department.

Some of the wildfires' smallest victims are the animals caught in the fire zone. Local humane societies are working to make sure their needs are not overlooked.

iReporters share their harrowing views of the western wildfires

The Larimer Humane Society is coordinating rescue, care and temporary shelter for animals affected by the High Park Fire. For more information or to make a donation, visit the organization's website.

The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region is coordinating shelter for animals affected by the Waldo Canyon Fire. Donations can be made online to help the organization care for evacuated animals.

A team of volunteers at the Norris-Penrose Events Center is caring for 155 horses at the equestrian space in Colorado Springs.

"We have the best facilities for an evacuation process like this," General Manager Johnny Walker said. "We weren't financially set to do this, but that doesn't matter. It's all about the horses."

To help with large animal evacuation efforts at Norris-Penrose, donations can be made to the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Foundation's trust accounts at Chase, UMB or Stockmens Banks.

In New Mexico, the Little Bear Recovery Team is helping residents affected by the Little Bear Fire, which has burned 44,330 acres and is at 90% containment, according to the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The organization's recovery center is seeking donations of baby diapers, Pedialyte, Enfamil and first aid kits. To volunteer or make a donation, visit the team's website.

Samaritan's Purse is taking work orders to help homeowners affected by the Little Bear Fire recover personal items and remove debris. Register to volunteer or make a donation online.

Photos: Wildfires rage in Western states