

Hurricane Ike Volunteer Opportunities

updated 12/3/2008

If a contact number or website is provided, please contact organization BEFORE volunteering.

Agency/Organization	Purpose	Agency Contact Name	Agency Contact Number	Address
HOW	<p>On December 6, 2008, The HOW Blessed Houston Project will be helping 5 households impacted by Hurricane Ike, the first of many as the long term-recovery process continues. Houses of worship are a wealth of volunteer resources. Please consider promoting this opportunity to your congregational members, youth groups, men's groups, missions and outreach.</p> <p>Volunteer Teams Needed Do volunteer teams have to have construction skills? No, unskilled volunteer teams with a willingness to work are welcome to participate. Are there any age requirements? Yes, the minimum age is 15 years (under 18 must be accompanied by a youth leader or parent). Sorry, no children under 15 will be allowed at the work sites. Will volunteer teams have to supply their own tools? Yes, volunteer teams will need to bring their own tools. Will volunteer team have to supply the repair materials? No, repair materials (if needed) will be supplied through a grant from the Home Depot.</p> <p>HOW Blessed Houston is a collaboration between local houses of worship (HOW), Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (IM), Houston Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) & Neighbo</p>	Jennifer Posten	713-533-4909 or jposten@imgh.org.	
Partners in Mission (PIM)	<p>An arm of the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, is needing volunteers to help muck out, repair and restore homes in the Galveston and Clute areas. They are asking volunteers to bring tools, rubber gloves, masks and plenty of bug repellent and antibacterial hand wash. They will provide flood buckets for cleanup sites.</p>	Please contact Ed Hilliard	713-417-7536, or contact the Volunteer Reception Center in Galveston at 409-797-3710 or volunteer@cityofgalveston.org.	N/A
Grace Community Church and Christ in Action	<p>Grace Community Church and Christ in Action, a national service organization, are partnering to provide Hurricane Ike relief services:</p> <p>"We are sending out Saturday work teams to gut homes, remove debris and have rebuild projects. We definitely need some volunteers to assist with these efforts.</p> <p>"Volunteers need to bring their own tools and equipment, wear long pants, and protective closed toe shoes. They must be 18 years old and be willing and able to work long hard hours. Right now projects are in Harris and Galveston counties but they move around to wherever there is a need</p>	To volunteer, call Susan Lindemann	713-363-2534, or e-mail susanL@grace.tv, or sign up on the Christ in Action Web site, www.christinaction.com.	
The Children's Center, Inc.	<p>A Galveston nonprofit that provides a broad array of services to children and families:</p> <p>"The Children's Center, Inc. will be setting up a shelter to take in families with infants and people with disabilities who have been displaced by Hurricane Ike. They are looking for about five volunteers a day to help sort clothing and toiletries at their warehouse. Volunteer needs to be self-starters and good at organizing. Volunteer hours are Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p>	Mary Shish	409-739-8474. Volunteers may also get involved by contacting the city-operated Volunteer Receptionist Center (VRC) at Galveston City Hall, 409-797-3710 or volunteer@cityofgalveston.org.	2828 Ave. Q in Galveston
City of Galveston	<p>Volunteer Receptionist Center (VRC) has been setup at Galveston City Hall, 2nd Floor. It will be in operation Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Volunteers may register there for assignment to any of several recovery projects being conducted in Galveston.</p>	City of Galveston	volunteers may call 409-797-3710 or e-mail volunteer@cityofgalveston.org to initiate involvement through the VRC	Galveston City Hall, 2nd Floor

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<p>CORE Base Camp</p>	<p>CORE Base Camp being established by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Gateway Church, Clear Creek Community Church, University Baptist Church, and Ecclesia of Clear Lake. Volunteers will be meeting each morning at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Nassau Bay @ 8:00 am. We are currently in cooperation with other churches and C.O.R.E. (Christians Organized For Relief Efforts) and will be sending teams off from the Base Camp at Gloria Dei. At 8:30 am we will have a brief orientation and then divide into work teams. The majority of the work will be at home sites doing debris removal and clean up on homes that have been flooded. Expect to get dirty. Lunch will be provided. Bring supplies from the list below.</p> <p>IF YOU ARE GOING OUT TO VOLUNTEER HERE IS A LIST OF HELPFUL ITEMS TO BRING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pry Bars -Rakes -Hammers -Tarps -Grip-Rite Nails -Masks -Gloves -Cutters to remove carpet -Loppers / Pruning Shears -Chainsaws -Shovels -Trash Bags -Work Shoes or Boots (NO FLIP-FLOPS) -Water -Goggles -Hand Sanitizer -Boxes or Storage Bins 	<p>8 am at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Nassau Bay</p>		<p>Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Nassau Bay</p>
<p>Galveston Ronald McDonald House</p>	<p>Margie Chavrria, the Executive Director of the Galveston Ronald McDonald House told us , "We received about 8 ft of water on the first floor and it made it to the first landing before going up to the second level. The smell was HORRIBLE! We lost both elevators, 10 a/c units, our new walk in freezer with all the contents in it. We lost all our paper products that were stored in the new addition storage closet and all our decorations, toys and cleaning supplies. We lost our van, wheel chairs, and wagons that our burn patients use when they arrive at our House. All the doors downstairs need to be replaced as well as the controls to both garage gates. There is more but I will stop there."</p> <p>The House has set an ambitious goal of being back open and serving the families by December. At that time, volunteers would be most welcome to bring some holiday spirit in the form of decorations, activities, etc...</p>			
<p>The Islamic Circle of North America Relief (ICNA Relief)</p>	<p>Volunteers are needed to maintain POD (Point of Distribution) for persons in Galveston at the Galveston Islamic Center located at 921 Broadway in Galveston (77550), just before the seawall at 10th Street. Volunteers are needed every day between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. until further notice to help with distribution of MREs (Meal Ready To Eat), water, fruit juice, ice, cleaning amenities, and other materials. (Health and social services are also being conducted on-site.)</p>	<p>Saad Ansari</p>	<p>281-282-7010</p>	<p>921 Broadway in Galveston (77550), just before the seawall at 10th Street.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Houston Food Bank</p>	<p>Needs volunteers at both locations, to pack disaster-relief boxes which will be distributed to individuals and families at neighborhood sites throughout greater Houston. This activity will be going on 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours possibly available once it is determined that road conditions are safe enough for post-daylight driving. Supervised youth volunteers are invited to help out.</p> <p>"The Houston Food Bank is operating and distributing food to our over 350 partner agencies at four times its normal capacity (500,000+ pounds daily instead of 150,000 pounds daily). This has totaled almost 12 million pounds of distributed food since the 9/14/08 landfall of Hurricane Ike!"</p> <p>"We have an exciting Hurricane Ike project in partnership with The Salvation Army to provide 15,000 disaster boxes to their organization. We are receiving 583,000 lbs of donated food from Kroger, which is 13.8 truck loads! Almost 6,400 volunteers just like you have helped us during the last 23 days since the storm and we are so thankful for every individual. We continue to solicit help and support as we attempt to reach our goal of 15,000 disaster boxes to the Salvation Army in a week!"</p> <p>"We are recruiting as many volunteers as possible for the next week and are looking to work a minimum of 4 hours per week."</p> <p>Information about related volunteer needs can be found at the Houston Food Bank Web site, www.houstonfoodbank.org.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Christopher Schmutz Parente</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Christopher Schmutz Parente, (713) 547-8683 (Direct), cschmutz-parente@houstonfoodbank.org.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3811 Eastex Freeway and Westheimer/Dairy Ashford location</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">San Leon</p>	<p>There are multiple relief projects going on there which could greatly benefit from the infusion of more volunteers. The top priority appears to be to secure volunteers willing to help with sorting and distribution of essential donated supplies at San Leon Community Church, an activity that will be going on weekdays and weekends until further notice.</p>	<p>Potential volunteers should call Mona at 832-892-5633. (Mona can also describe other volunteer-driven initiatives pending or already in place.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mona at 832-892-5633.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">The Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA)</p>	<p>Needs volunteer groups in Galveston to help with clean up and gutting homes through approximately 11/16.</p> <p>"We would ideally like groups for a week, but will gladly take groups for a long weekend, and even for an overnight or single day of work with no stay over. "</p> <p>"We will provide tools, training, and a definitive worksite, and lunch if needed for day trippers. We'll arrange for all the meals and housing (in AC and with showers) for those staying overnight."</p> <p>"We ask for a \$25 donation per day per person for helping us cover tools, fuel, meals, utilities, building rents, etc."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact: Mark Lewis at 985-893-0218.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston</p>	<p>Immediate need for volunteers to help with hurricane relief efforts:</p> <p>1. Volunteers are needed to help hand out food and supplies at three distribution sites in Galveston. Assignments are available weekdays and weekends between 12 noon and 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Contact: Elizabeth Kinard at 713-201-2472</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston</p>	<p>Immediate need for volunteers to help with hurricane relief efforts:</p> <p>Volunteers are needed to help with light carpentry, repair, and debris cleanup in the Houston area.</p>	<p>Nancy Mercado at nmercado@catholiccharities.org.</p>		

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Bay Area Pet Adoption (formerly Bay Area SPCA)	Need volunteers to continue with clean up and ongoing recovery. Rakes Large Trash Bags Large Trash Cans Flat Carts to move bags of dog food, boxes of office supplies, etc. Dollies to move furniture (desks, filing cabinets, etc.) Mops Rolling Mop Buckets Battery Operated Lanterns Lawn Mowers Weed Eaters Pressure Washer Gallon Jugs of Water (Distilled OK, too) Gatorade if you need it Mosquito Spray		281-339-2086	3000 Avenue R San Leon, TX 77539
Interfaith Caring Ministries	Hurricane Relief Distribution Center - Need 10 - 20 volunteers per shift, 9am to 12pm, 1 pm to 4 pm shifts available at the distribution center in the Palais Royale shopping center at 518 and Hwy 3 in League City. 10 to 20 volunteers needed per shift Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times This distribution center will be open seven days a week, approximately through December 2008. Volunteers will be needed on an on-going basis.	Interfaith Caring Ministries	281-332-3881	Old Palais Royal located at 231 Main Street in League City for 90-days. 231 Main Street League City.
Harris County Office of Emergency Management	Individuals who are interested in volunteering can assist at various locations throughout Houston and Harris County, including area non-profit agencies and shelters.	To volunteer or for more information, please call the volunteer line at 713.853.8802 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p. http://www.hcoem.org	713.853.8802	Various
Meals on Wheels	Volunteers are being asked to utilize their own vehicle (no reimbursement for time or gasoline) to go to a central distribution site at a Reliant Stadium parking lot where they will load their vehicles with meals and water for three days to distribute to Meal on Wheels clients. We are asking for healthcare volunteers to assist with these deliveries so that they can simultaneously do a quick visual health assessment for these clients and assess any medical or special needs that are not being met.	If you are willing to help, please call the following number, 713-881-3258 OR go to ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (5501 Main Street, Houston 77004) at the parking lots between San Jacinto and Calumet as soon as you can.	713-881-3258	Call first!
Houston SPCA	Needs volunteers to assist at its 900 Portway Drive headquarters to help process persons willing to foster pets evacuated from Galveston. (See the entry immediately below about "Operation Save a Life".) Duties will include helping direct these persons to appropriate processing areas, helping them select animals, assisting as needed with completion of paperwork, etc. This phase of the project will be in operation 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., 7 days a week until further notice. (It is expected to last "at least a week, possibly 2 or 3 weeks.") Volunteers should be at least 18 years of age. Potential volunteers should e-mail Tim Raeke, the SPCA Volunteer Coordinator, at volmgr@hspca.org to let him know their hours of availability.	Volunteers should be at least 18 years of age. Potential volunteers should e-mail Tim Raeke, the SPCA Volunteer Coordinator, at volmgr@hspca.org to let him know their hours of availability.		
Houston SPCA	The Houston SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) has launched "Operation Save a Life", asking families to foster displaced pets from Galveston for ten days. (If after the ten days, the displaced animal is not reclaimed by its original owner, the foster parent has the option to adopt the animal or return him/her to the shelter for placement.)	http://hspca.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=Hurricane_Ike_Updates		900 Portway Drive Houston

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Special Pals Animal Shelter	This is a rescue shelter that has taken in animals from Kemah, Galveston and the Bay Area shelters. Special Pals usually has approximately 70 animals in their shelter and currently has about 200. They are in need of volunteers to help with 8:00 a.m. feedings, other assistance and the following supplies: bleach, dry dog food - Purina, Beneful, pedigree small bites, cat litter, drinking water for volunteers.	Call office directly	281-579-7387	3830 Greenhouse Road Houston, Houston, TX 77084
Armand Bayou Nature Center	At Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC), debris left by Hurricane Ike has rendered its miles of trails impassable. Volunteers are needed to serve on work crews to clear the trails and make the grounds safe and fit for visitors. (As of 9/22/08, it is expected that this project will continue for "at least the next couple of weeks, probably more".) The work crews are forming at the ABNC admissions building (8500 Bay Area Boulevard) at 8 a.m. to sign in and prepare for deployment on the grounds, but volunteers who cannot make it that early are also welcome. (Work for the day will wrap up around 4 to 5 p.m.) The minimum age for volunteers is 15. Potential volunteers should call 281-474-2551 (or toll free at 1-866-417-3818). Volunteers should wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, gloves, hats, hiking-quality shoes or boots, and ideally bring their own insect repellent. Water (cold) will be provided.	The work crews are forming at the ABNC admissions building (8500 Bay Area Boulevard) at 8 a.m. to sign in and prepare for deployment on the grounds, but volunteers who cannot make it that early are also welcome. (Work for the day will wrap up around 4 to 5 p.m.) The minimum age for volunteers is 15. Potential volunteers should call 281-474-2551 (or toll free at 1-866-417-3818).	Volunteers please contact Polly Swerdlin at 281-814-4606 or polly@abnc.org to join a work party	8500 Bay Area Boulevard
Volunteer Houston	The Volunteer Houston office has been rendered unusable by the effects of Hurricane Ike, Volunteer Houston staff have temporarily relocated to the George R. Brown Convention Center where we will assist as needed with relief initiatives there and try to direct potential volunteers to recovery efforts throughout the greater Houston area.		713-853-8802	Call daily to check volunteer needs
Harris County Citizens Corps	Will email registrants volunteer needs.		Call first: 713-881-3258 Register online	Once registered, volunteers will receive updates with pertinent information
Houston Area Disaster District Command	The Houston area Disaster District Command (DDC) of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has been tasked with handling health-related 211 calls. They need volunteers willing to provide transportation for home-bound patients who need to undergo dialysis, secure their insulin, or attend to other important chronic health needs. Although the majority of such persons are in Houston and Harris County, there are also significant numbers in surrounding counties. Volunteers can help with as few or many such cases as they desire, and they can -- if they so choose -- limit their services to a particular geographical area. If you're willing to help, please call 281-517-1319, ext 3219 or 3220. (This is a "24/7" operation so you may call at any time of day or night.)		call 281-517-1319, ext 3219 or 3220.	Volunteers can help with as few or many such cases as they desire, and they can -- if they so choose -- limit their services to a particular geographical area. (This is a "24/7" operation so you may call at any time of day or night.)
Operation Blue Roof	FEMA is implementing Operation Blue Roof , in areas impacted by Hurricane Ike. This program provides home owners with plastic sheeting and/or tarpaulins with which to protect the roof from the elements until proper repairs can be effected. A number of sites for dispensing of these materials have been set up in Houston and neighboring communities. As soon as we are privy to better information, we will post it here.	TBD	TBD	TBD