



Disaster Relief volunteers show God's love in a tangible way by helping those who are affected by disasters.

The Disaster Relief Ministry is one of North Carolina Baptists on Missions' 19 ministries. All of these ministries receive funds from the Baptists on Missions budget, funded by the North Carolina Missions Offering.

Disaster Relief volunteers are organized to meet the needs of people during hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and other human-made and natural disasters. Providing meals, cleaning up destroyed areas, and repairing homes are but a few of the ways North Carolina Baptists respond to disasters.

The mass-feeding ministry began in 1977 when NC Baptist Men purchased a 45-foot used trailer. The trailer was moved to Camp Caraway and the job of stripping and rebuilding the unit began. Baptist churches from all over the state sent work teams to Camp Caraway to complete the trailer. In June 1982, NC Baptist Men purchased a Mack road tractor to pull the unit. With the unit almost completed by August of 1982, the unit was dedicated at the Baptist Men's Board Meeting at Camp Caraway. The unit responded to numerous disaster calls. Following the 1984 tornadoes that hit eastern North Carolina, the unit was requested to go to Red Springs. The unit stayed on the scene for 9 days, providing 12,989 meals.

We now have six self-contained feeding units, the largest two can provide 30,000 meals a day, one can provide 20,000 meals per day while the 2 smallest of the units can provide up to 1,000 and 300 meals per day respectively.

In addition, NC Disaster Relief has grown to include recovery units, shower and laundry units, a child care unit, communications unit, two potable water tankers, generators, and more. Over the years DR has trained 15,000+ volunteers and has a current roster of over 5,000 volunteers.

NC Disaster Relief volunteers have provided ministry in 22 states and 20 countries. Over 5 million meals have been prepared and over 25,000 recovery jobs have been completed. In addition, over 150,000 showers have been provided and 15,000 loads of laundry have been cleaned. DR Child care volunteers have provided loving care to hundreds of children.

Teams are organized by region or unit. Each team is made up of several members with expertise in a specific ministry. Teams typically respond for 3-5 days on a rotation basis.

Volunteers can get involved in disaster relief ministry in one or more of the following ways:

Admin - Admin volunteers manage volunteer check-in, jobs, finances, and daily reporting on laptop computers (provided), and must have organizational and multi-tasking skills to work in a fast-paced environment. Excellent relational skills are also required to interact with survivors as well as other volunteers.

Assessment – (Must be certified in recovery) Visits with homeowner to determine if and how volunteers can help with cleanup and recovery. Team member should be comfortable meeting people in distress, work well with others, usually in pairs, be able to read and complete paperwork, and understand the work of chainsaw, clean-up, and temporary repair teams.

Chaplaincy - Chaplaincy volunteers meet the spiritual and emotional needs of disaster survivors. Participants should be able to relate well with people in crisis situations, be a good listener, be able to communicate well verbally, and be able to read and comprehend chaplaincy materials. Compassion is important but also should learn skills to care for the needy.

Childcare - Childcare participant team members provide a temporary environment for children post-disaster in order to allow parents time to recover from a disaster. Must be willing to learn and follow NC Baptists on Mission Disaster Relief methods for childcare.

Communications - For individuals with a background in computer operations, support, network support, and/or a background in Communications. (Ex. Ham, Amateur Radio)

Crew Chief - Crew chiefs will lead trained and untrained volunteers conducting recovery operations. They must have demonstrated leadership ability and must be currently certified in Recovery.

Drivers – NC Baptists on Mission Disaster Relief owns and operates many large pieces of equipment that need to be transported to trainings and disaster sites throughout the year with large tractors and smaller trucks. We also operate a number of box trucks. Drivers must have current licensure, no disciplinary action, a good driving record, pass a drug screening and other requirements.

Feeding - Feeding volunteers will learn best practices for cooking large quantities of food using NC Baptists on Mission Disaster Relief equipment. Must be able to work in hot/cold environments for long periods. Standing, lifting, twisting are basic physical motions that you must be comfortable with.

Forklift - Participants will learn how to operate a forklift properly and as it relates to a Disaster Site. Must have certified in Recovery, Feeding or Logistics.

Logistics - Logistics volunteers manage site logistics and acquire services (water, propane, diesel, trash pickup, office supplies, etc.) for the operation. Volunteers must be resourceful, energetic, and able to manage many demands at one time. The work is typically outdoors and requires long hours and many challenges.

Maintenance - Participants must have experience in maintenance and be able to work long hours in less than ideal conditions. Must be mechanically savvy and resourceful.

Medical Reserve Corps - Volunteers have the opportunity to respond to domestic and international medical responses, and especially when disaster sites are set up and operational in NC. Must have a copy of credentials with no disciplinary action. Must be able to work long hours in adverse conditions.

Recovery - (also known as Clean-up): Help homeowners clean-up personal dwellings which may include: gutting home, removing mud and personal belongings, chainsaw work, and temporary roof repair. To participate in Disaster Recovery training, youth must be in the 6th grade or older. A parent must attend the same class at training. Skills needed: be in good physical shape, able to work in adverse conditions including hot and cold weather.

Safety - Safety volunteers will manage all aspects of safety on a site where DR volunteers are stationed.

Shower/Laundry - Volunteers will learn setup, maintenance, and use of shower/laundry units. Skills needed: be able to clean showers and be able to sort, load, wash, and fold clothes for other people. Must be in good physical shape to work in hot and cold conditions.

Recovery Trailer - Manages inventory for the NC Baptists on Mission Disaster Recovery tool trailer. Participants must be able to manage the disbursement and collection of tools to volunteer teams. Skills needed: understand tools and their purpose. Training in Recovery is a prerequisite to Recovery Trailer certification.