

Georgia Red Cross Transitions to Client Casework Help Still Available for Families with Tornado-Caused Needs

As the demand for Red Cross sheltering and feeding has dwindled, a sign that tornado-affected Georgians are moving forward with their recovery, the Red Cross is now transitioning to client casework.

Volunteer caseworkers continue to go door-to-door, county-by-county in identified, hard-hit areas to offer Red Cross resources to survivors. When families aren't home, caseworkers leave a note with follow-up information and resulting call-backs to the toll-free Red Cross Georgia Tornado Call Center grow daily.

“We’ll continue to work with families on a case-by-case basis to evaluate their emergency caused needs and to make referrals to government and community resources that can also help, said Fran O’Shaughnessy, Director of the Georgia Red Cross Tornado relief operation. “Our ultimate goal is to ensure that all Red Cross clients displaced by the tornadoes have a working recovery plan.”

Well before the tornadoes hit on April 27, Red Cross volunteers prepared to respond. Local Disaster Action Teams were among the first to shelter, feed, and comfort their devastated neighbors in the aftermath of the storms.

[Watch](#) video from Red Cross shelter in Meriwether County.

Red Cross Response to Date:

- **418 Red Cross volunteers** and staff in hard-hit areas of Georgia are working with community partners to help families meet their tornado-caused needs.
- **49,703 meals have been served and 1,641 clean-up and comfort kits have been distributed.** 10 Emergency response vehicles were mobilized to provide mobile feeding and clean-up supply distribution.
- **10,754 bulk items have been distributed** (including rakes, sunscreen, diapers, baby formula, insect repellent, garbage bags, dust masks, paper towels, and more).
- **486 people were provided safe haven in 11 Red Cross shelters.** As people made their way home or found



alternative housing, Red Cross shelters were closed. The Red Cross is working with local emergency partners to ensure any temporary emergency housing needs are met.

- Red Cross nurses and mental health counselors are providing health and mental health services for those facing the daunting task of rebuilding.
- Red Cross damage assessment teams reported **600 homes in Georgia destroyed, 595 with major damage.**

Red Cross-Georgia Tornado Call Center

Anyone who needs information on Red Cross tornado relief services in Georgia is urged to call the Red Cross-Georgia Tornado Call Center, toll-free, at **1-800-RED CROSS** (1-800-733-2767) and follow the prompts for disaster relief in Georgia.

The call center is **open daily from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.** and is a resource for families with questions about what services the Red Cross is providing and how to access them.

Kia Motors Donates \$1.5 Million to Georgia Tornado Relief

Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia donated \$1.5 million to the Georgia Tornado Relief Effort on May 4. Georgia Region Interim CEO Charlie McGivern participated in a press conference at the Governor's Office with Kia Motors Group President and CEO Byung Mo Ahn, Governor Nathan Deal, and Lt. Governor Casey Cagle to announce the gift.

Georgia Red Cross Working with Partners to Help Neighbors in Need

Here is a sampling of Red Cross tornado relief partnerships:

- **UPS** helped with logistics; picking up donated supplies and delivering them to distribution sites across the state.
- **The Home Depot** provided various clean-up supplies (tarps, buckets, gloves, bleach, etc.) for bulk distribution.
- **Shaw Industries** in Dalton donated use of a centrally located air-conditioned warehouse that served as a distribution center for Red Cross relief supplies.
- **The Southern Baptists** prepared thousands of meals that were picked up by Red Cross emergency response vehicles and distributed to tornado survivors in northwest Georgia.
- **The American Legion** and the **Trinity United Methodist Church (UMC)** in Trenton prepared meals for tornado victims in their community.
- **Tractor Supply Company** donated a tractor trailer load of water for distribution, as provided additional in-kind support.
- **Financial Partners**, whose generous support is turned into meals, blankets, shelters, clothing, emotional support and much more to help those in need.

25 Georgia Counties Designated for Federal Assistance Recovery Centers Open in Multiple Locations

Twenty five counties were designated for disaster assistance as part of Georgia's federal disaster declaration: Bartow, Catoosa, Cherokee, Coweta, Dade, Floyd, Gordon, Greene, Habersham, Harris,

Heard, Lamar, Lumpkin, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Newton, Pickens, Polk, Rabun, Spalding, Troup, Upson, White and Walker.

Affected individuals and business owners in these counties can apply for assistance by calling FEMA's toll-free number, **800-621-FEMA (3362)**. An online application can be completed at www.DisasterAssistance.gov. Individual assistance for homeowners and renters can include grants to help pay for rental housing, home repairs, and serious disaster-related expenses not met by insurance or other assistance programs.

Disaster Recovery Centers are open in Bartow, Catoosa, Dade, Floyd, Lamar, Meriwether, Morgan, Pickens, Rabun, Spalding, Troup, and Walker counties. They remain open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily until further notice. Visit www.fema.gov for locations.

Red Cross Responds to Mother Nature's Fury

As Red Cross recovery operations continue in tornado-devastated neighborhoods throughout the South, hundreds of workers are also helping people in Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi along the swollen Mississippi River.

From North Dakota to the East Coast and all throughout the South, the Red Cross has launched 23 separate relief operations in 18 states since March 31. Wildfires in Texas, flooding along swollen rivers and the rash of angry tornadoes have led to the deployment of more than 6,200 Red Cross workers from all 50 states and territories to help those in need.

How You Can Help

Red Cross disaster assistance is free. The Red Cross depends on financial donations to help in times of disaster. Please consider making a donation today to help those affected by these disasters.

By Phone: Call 1-800-RED-CROSS

By Text: Text REDCROSS to 90999 and donate \$10

By Check: Mail to American Red Cross, P.O. Box 101508, Atlanta, GA 30392-1508

By Internet: Visit www.redcross.org

Your gift enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling, and other emergency assistance. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters.