



**Maryland Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (MDVOAD)
Quarterly Meeting
Friday, 09 September 2005**

MEETING MINUTES

This quarterly meeting of MDVOAD was held at the American Red Cross of Central Maryland Headquarters located in Baltimore, MD.

ATTENDEES

Kitty Juneau – Adventist Community Services (ACS)
Kevin Burr – American Red Cross – Central Maryland Chapter (ARC)
Barbara Fay – Anne Arundel County Emergency Management Agency
Cathy Walker – Anne Arundel County Emergency Management Agency
Fay Mauro – Anne Arundel Volunteer Center
James Matz – Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management
Debbie Staigerwald – Baltimore County Volunteers/Citizens Corps
Michelle Kehl – Baltimore County Citizens Corps/ Maryland Interfaith Recovery Team (MIRT)
George Blevins – Baptist Convention of MD and DE
Ellen Udovich – Baptist Convention of MD and DE
Mark Bailey – Catholic Charities
John Johnson – Civil Air Patrol
Luis Peralta – Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD)
Daria McDowell – Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR)
Steve Welzant – Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
Wayne Flickinger – Maryland Food Bank
Catherine Dorsey – MIRT
Ann Evans – Montgomery County Volunteer Center
Lie-Ping Li – Tzu Chi Foundation
Bob Ridenour – United Church of Christ, Central Atlantic Conference
Sandy Ferguson – United Methodist Church
Mickey Gomez – Volunteer Center Serving Howard County
Pam Simonson – Volunteer Center Serving Howard County
Roy Bates – Volunteer Frederick, Frederick County Citizens Corps
Lisa Orr – Volunteer Frederick, Frederick County Citizens Corps
Carol Haag – Volunteer Frederick, Frederick County Citizens Corps

CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mickey Gomez, the MDVOAD Chair, thanked everyone for attending this quarterly meeting of MDVOAD. Mickey provided some opening remarks and stated that this meeting would not follow the usual agenda driven discussion since there was much being done by MDVOAD member agencies due to the response to Hurricane Katrina.

Mickey advised the meeting attendees that the agenda would be modified to only include a budget update and then go directly into agency reports.

BUDGET UPDATE

Scott Knox stated that MDVOAD currently has approximately \$14,747.68 in its account. At this time, all expenses have been paid up to this point. There were two major expenditures over the summer, both related to the NVOAD Conference: full conference expenses for Pam Simonson and partial Conference expenses for Ollie Davidson.

There are no major expenditures projected to date for the remainder of 2005. Anticipated expenses include: meeting costs for September and December MDVOAD meetings along with minor administrative costs (printing, postage, etc.) There may be further expenditures related to fulfilling terms of previous grants. Specific expenses have not been identified to date.

Please keep up with your membership dues. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, or if you are interested in becoming a member of MDVOAD, please contact Scott Knox at sbsknox90@comcast.net.

AGENCY REPORTS

American Red Cross (ARC) – ARC is providing training for volunteers who are interested in helping out in the affected states. They are asking that volunteers make a two-week minimum commitment, preferably three. These classes are tentatively scheduled for every Wednesday and they are filling up quick. Those interested in volunteering for deployment are asked to Contact Pam Tice (ptice@arc-cmc.org) at the ARC of Central MD.

Out of 8 ARC chapters that serve the State of Maryland, only one currently has a shelter operation stood up (Prince George's County). ARC of Central MD is currently assisting at least 200 families, with many more registering every day. Please keep in mind that there is a difference between the number of cases verses actual individuals being served, the actual number of people that ARC is assisting is far higher than just the number of cases.

ARC is strongly encouraging all the evacuees they are helping to register with FEMA for federal assistance, but the FEMA registration hotline has been very busy, callers are likely to get a busy signal when calling the FEMA number. ARC is providing evacuees with some spending money and hotel accommodations, if needed. They are making numerous referrals to public health agencies. There is currently a backlog regarding the issuance of debit cards, they will provide checks or cash if the debit card approval backlog can not be resolved.

Adventist Community Services (ACS) – For local operations, they are working with local service providers. They are helping to staff the FEMA donations hotline. They also currently have many teams in the gulf states, the fringe states are getting most of the evacuees. Regional donations warehouses are being considered. No large collection centers have been established. Confirm the need before collecting any donations.

Anne Arundel County Emergency Management – They have deployed their recently purchased mobile communications vehicle to the affected states to aid in communications capability for MD personnel on the ground. AA County is expecting a few evacuees coming into the county.

Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center – They are working with county social services at two evacuee intake centers. They have opened 20-25 cases so far.

Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management – The Harborbase Exercise that was originally scheduled for mid-September and the upcoming citizens Corps and Medical Reserve Corps training has been postponed due to the ongoing evacuee situation. The Du Burns Arena in Canton is set up to accept 500 evacuees. Baltimore City Fire Dept. is collecting donations and is sending needed items to the affected states. Balt. City has sent approximately 100 personnel from various emergency disciplines (fire, police, EMS, public works, etc.) to Louisiana.

Baltimore County Volunteers – They are making referrals to the ARC for those wanting information on local volunteer information. They are coordinating with the MD Food Bank on a large food drive. They have launched a program that brings at-risk youth in to help seniors with emergency preparedness kits (teenagers and seniors program). Several dozen Baltimore County medical volunteers are deployed through the Medical Reserve Corps. They are getting ready to print a county-based resource directory.

Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware – They are currently on hold and monitoring the situation. Other divisions of the Baptist Convention are teaming with the ARC to provide feeding operations in the affected states. The Baptist Convention is the third largest disaster relief organization in the United States. For an update on actions by the Baptist Convention go to their website: www.namb.net/dr.

Catholic Charities – They are currently monitoring events and are taking a lot of calls from individuals interested in helping victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Church of the Brethren - <Not present> In the midst of the destruction and despair of Hurricane Katrina the Church of the Brethren is reaching out to the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. A combination of immediate and long term response are anticipated for this horrific disaster.

As of September 3, three shipments of relief kits, blankets and medical supplies, from the Brethren Service Center, have been received in shelters supporting evacuees. These shipments were made on behalf of Church World Service. More shipments are anticipated.

The needs of evacuated children are being addressed through the Disaster Child Care program. Screened and trained volunteers will provide a comforting presence to these traumatized children. These services will be provided in the disaster area and in shelters located throughout the U.S.

Special trainings are being organized to meet the need for additional Disaster Child Care volunteers needed for this large response. Call 1-800-451-4407, x 3 or email ersm_gb@brethren.org for additional information.

Grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund are helping organize the long-term recovery, and support for volunteers responding to this disaster and will be aiding the response efforts of local churches in Louisiana.

Additional planning is underway for clean up and rebuilding efforts for survivors along the Gulf Coast.

Make a donation to support this Disaster Response. Contributions can be made online at www.brethrendisasterresponse.org, by calling 800-323-8039 x 234 or sending a donation to Emergency Disaster Fund, Church of the Brethren General Board, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, Illinois 60120.

Put together a Church World Service Gift of the Heart kit. Information is available at www.churchworldservice.org/kits

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) – The United States Air Force (USAF) has tasked CAP with a number of missions in support of Hurricane Katrina response and recovery operations. They are primarily involved with air reconnaissance and down-linking images to emergency officials on the ground. They are using some of their heat sensing equipment to locate warm bodies of victims trapped in attics. The MD Wing of the CAP is on standby for relief of crews who are working down there now. They are holding a training and exercise event at the Frederick Municipal Airport; they will be demonstrating their new video imaging system. This system is being paid for by the USAF and it a great, free imaging tool for government officials.

Department of Human Resources (DHR) – DHR is continuing to staff their desk at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to support evacuee relief operations. DHR can provide mass care shelter volunteers and food stamp assistance.

- Action item: coordinate case worker volunteers with ARC.

Frederick Volunteers – Frederick is assisting to meet the needs of 40 families who have evacuated from the affected states, some have medical issues. Some of these families have been placed in hotels by the ARC, but most are staying with relatives in the county. They have a need for registered nurses for help with evacuees (contact Jack Lynch, 301-663-5214 x4).

Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) – <Not present> GOSV is continuing to refer prospective donors and volunteers to www.marylandcares.us. They are also developing a database for offers of living space.

Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) – HSUS is issuing daily situation reports for their activities in the affected states.

Maryland Department on Disabilities (MDOD) – MDOD is currently acting as an information resource for State and local agencies, primarily providing guidance related to housing and transportation for evacuees coming into Maryland. Some challenges have been identified regarding getting emergency information out in multiple languages and braille.

Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) – The Maryland State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was partially activated and staffed Sunday, September 4, 2005 at 0800. SEOC is currently staffed and is scheduled to operate from 0900-1700 for the near future. MEMA plans to staff the SEOC on a partial basis throughout the month, although it is anticipated this may change and only certain identified agencies will need to staff the SEOC. Agencies are encouraged to establish personnel rotations. An evacuee hotline was established by Governor Ehrlich (1-877-868-4954) to provide a way for evacuees, relatives of evacuees, or prospective donors to get helpful information. Many callers are being referred to the American Red Cross so they can register for short-term assistance, while others are given advice on how and where to donate cash. There are some callers who are interested in donating a room for an evacuee(s) to live in the short-term. The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism is collecting information regarding offers of donated living space. MEMA helped coordinate the deployment of many Maryland National Guard personnel as well as civilian emergency workers to the areas most affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Maryland Food Bank (MFB) – There are numerous food drives occurring, thus there are many drops offs at the MFB. The Food Bank in New Orleans was destroyed. FEMA is paying truckers to haul food to the region, and there are many takers, some are taking advantage of the situation. MFB receives direction from America's Second Harvest. The MFB will, however, fulfill the needs of any local churches.

Maryland Interfaith Recovery Team (MIRT) – Ongoing communications with Secretary Scott and the Long-Term Recovery Working Group. They are reimbursing people for rebuilding material expenses (Isabel victims). They are receiving many calls from individuals who are interested in helping victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Montgomery County Volunteer Center – They have helped coordinate the deployment of local Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to the affected states. The Montgomery County Executive has stated that they could handle 1,000 evacuees. A resource hotline has been established for those interested in donating or volunteering, call 240-777-2600 or go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteers.

Salvation Army – <Not present> There are over 125 disaster Feeding units in service throughout the South, not counting the ones in use in Dallas and Houston and Memphis and Arkansas. The Salvation Army MD and WV Division has sent five (5) full size mobile kitchens and five (5) smaller food prep and delivery vehicles to the area, along with 30 personnel and some ICS staff members. We will be sending additional personnel as replacement crews for the feeding units in approximately two weeks.

Salvation Army relief workers serving on mobile feeding units and volunteers from the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief organization cooked meals for nearly 30,000 people yesterday in Long Beach and Biloxi, MS area. Operation Blessing Inc., a Salvation Army disaster partner, has been delivering truck loads of food on a daily basis to The Salvation Army and Robertson pledged that more are on the way.

Workers from the Southern Baptist, another disaster partner, have set up large field kitchens along side Salvation Army mobile canteens that are capable of cooking 20,000 meals a day.

The Salvation Army is need of monetary donations. Donations can be made:

- By calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY
- By going online to www.salvationarmyusa.org
- By visiting Wal-Mart of Sam's Club stores
- By mailing a check to the local Salvation Army, earmarked for "Disaster Relief."
- By mailing a check to:
The Salvation Army
Disaster Relief
P.O. Box 4857
Jackson, MS 39296-4857

The Salvation Army is currently seeking in kind donations to be sent to the disaster area. Please contact your local Salvation Army regarding any local needs in the way of supplies disaster survivors. Those interested in volunteering can register on the volunteer database by going to www.salvationarmyuse.org and click under "Volunteer Here" line to fill out a registration form. If people are looking for relatives who were affected by the disaster, they can go to www.salvationarmyusa.org and click under "Loved Ones". That will connect them to The Salvation Army Team Emergency Network (SATEN)

Tzu Chi Foundation – They are a global organization, based in Taiwan. They currently have volunteer deployed and working the Astrodome (Houston) among other locations. The Maryland area chapter is located in Montgomery County. Please go to www.tzuchi.org for more information.

United Methodist Church and UMCOR – They have 200 churches in the Baltimore/Washington Conference. They respond to disasters through their relief arm, UMCOR (United Methodist Church Committee on Relief). They are taking in a large amount of cash donations. They are training Volunteers in Missions (VIMS) personnel. They are still working with MIRT to address unmet needs of Isabel victims. They are offering some living space to evacuees and collecting personal hygiene kits. For more information, go to www.bwcumc.org.

- Action Item: UMC to send cleaning kits to ACS.

Volunteer Center Serving Howard County (VCHC) – They are currently referring volunteers to established disaster relief organizations and promoting the GOSV site www.marylandcares.us and www.cern.us for those who want to donate or volunteer. Howard County has sent fire/police/EMS personnel to the affected region.

**** A Nomination Committee was established to help find persons who are interested in serving on the MDVOAD Executive Committee for 2006. Wayne Flickinger, Ollie Davidson, Steve Welzant, and Linda Schlicht are the tentative members of this committee, anybody is welcome to join. Please consider volunteering your time for these positions (Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary).**

THE MDVOAD ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 09 SEPTEMBER 2005 FROM 10 AM to 2 PM AT THE ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE CENTER (HOWARD COUNTY).