



**American
Red Cross**

Flooding in South Carolina

One-Year Update | October 2016

Red Cross Provides Ongoing Support after Devastating 2015 Floods

In October 2015, record flooding brought destruction to communities across South Carolina—damaging hundreds of homes. Powered by support from generous donors, American Red Cross volunteers and employees—many from the local area who were also impacted by the flooding—were swiftly on hand to bring relief and comfort. We delivered shelter, food, relief supplies, basic health services and emotional support to thousands of people who had homes and belongings damaged or destroyed by the surging waters.

A year later, the floodwaters are gone, but their impact lingers for many individuals and families. The Red Cross continues to stand with them, supporting recovery in South Carolina alongside long-term recovery groups and an array of our non-profit partners with specialized expertise. Trained caseworkers remain in regular contact with people who have unmet needs. They also help flood survivors locate available resources from other agencies and fill out necessary paperwork as they navigate the challenges of longer-term recovery.

Response at a Glance

As of September 12, 2016, more than 1,700 American Red Cross workers have helped bring relief to people affected by October's flooding South Carolina, including:



Serving more than
**154,000 meals
and snacks**



Providing **4,700
overnight stays
in shelters**



Distributing more than
**181,000 relief and
cleanup items**



Providing nearly **7,000 health
and mental health services**



Opening nearly **2,000 cases**
for affected families

All numbers are cumulative and represent Red Cross response efforts since October 2, 2015.

Meeting Urgent Recovery Needs of Flood Survivors

Last fall's flooding left 82 year-old Mae Samuels with two feet of water in her home. Samuels, who lives in the Loris neighborhood of Horry County, needed help. Her neighbor, Loretta Hemmingway, came to Samuels' assistance—despite having sustained severe flood damage herself.

After the disaster, both women were contacted by a Red Cross team going door-to-door in their community. With help from the Red Cross and local volunteer agencies, they received vital assistance as they began the often difficult process of recovery from major flooding and water damage.

Access to their neighborhood was limited for several weeks following the floods. To help, the Red Cross supplied assistance to buy items like food and clothing and referred the women to voluntary agencies that could assist with longer-term needs. In May, the Red Cross provided additional funds for recovery that will help with repair work on their homes.



In Loris, S.C., Red Cross volunteer Deb Kostic comforts flood survivor Mae Samuels. The Red Cross provided assistance to Samuels after the floods severely damaged her home. Dennis James/American Red Cross

Debbie Kostic, Long-Term Recovery Lead for the American Red Cross of Eastern South Carolina, stayed in touch with Hemmingway and Samuels during and after the flooding.

"It's been overwhelming to receive such love from volunteers like Ms. Kostic," said Hemmingway.

"Sometimes we feel we are all alone until someone like Ms. Kostic steps up and communicates with us to make sure we are okay."

"We needed help, and it's just a blessing to have people here and caring for us."

Loretta Hemmingway, whose Loris, S.C., home was damaged by the floods

Caseworkers are still helping more than 1,000 individuals and families who, like Samuels and Hemmingway, had homes that were destroyed or sustained major damage from the floods. We are helping to identify gaps in the families' personal recovery plans and finalize their recovery efforts.

The Red Cross is also providing supplemental assistance, which could include helping renters secure stable housing and resources such as security deposits, first month's rent and utility deposits, as well as relocation assistance and transportation. It may also include helping homeowners with minor home repairs, permit applications and other recovery needs where their resources are insufficient. Your Red Cross is also connecting these families with additional services, including advocacy, referrals, guidance and other recovery support.

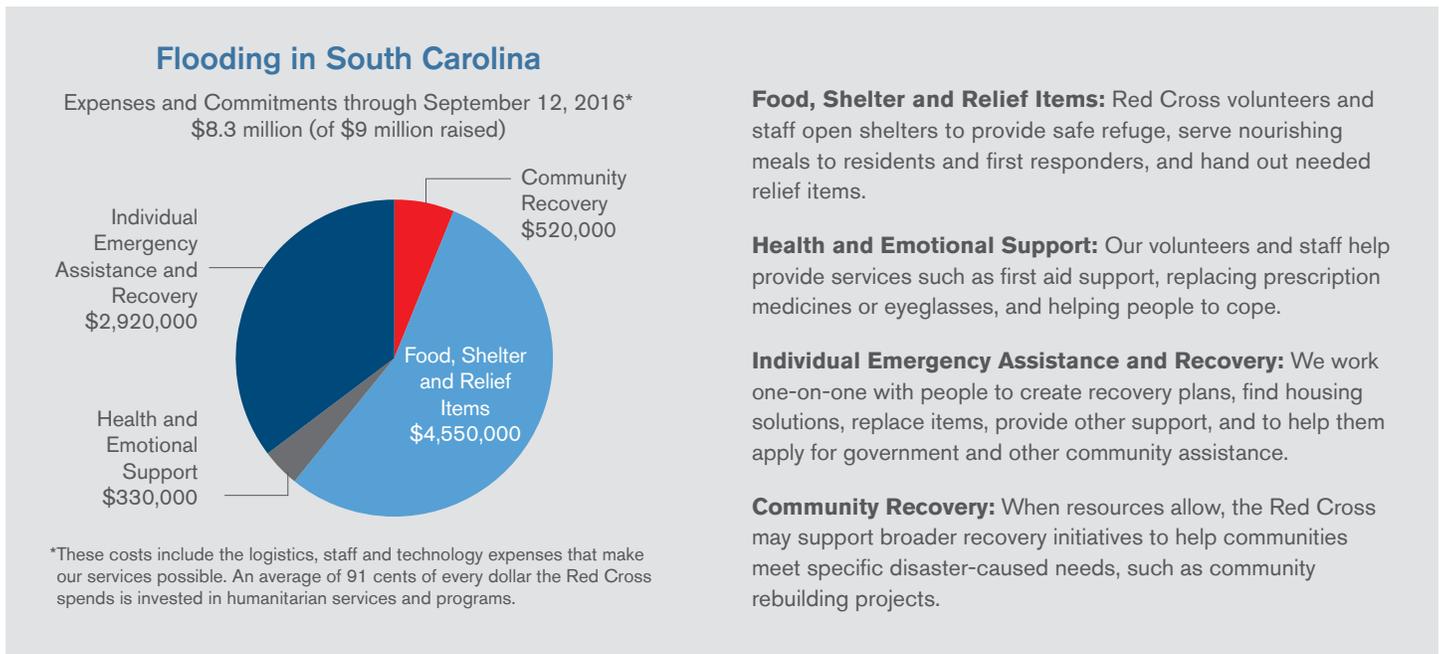
This help has made a real difference in flood-ravaged communities. In Florence, a flood survivor used her Red Cross financial assistance to get additional supplies needed for repair work being carried out by North Carolina Southern Baptist volunteers. And a flood survivor in Lake City was in tears when her new refrigerator was delivered by a team from the Red Cross.

Generous Supporters Power Red Cross Recovery Work

Thanks to our generous donors, the Red Cross has raised approximately \$9 million for our response to the October 2015 flooding in South Carolina. And, as of September 12, 2016, the Red Cross has spent or committed to spend more than \$8.3 million to help people affected by these devastating floods. Remaining funds will support

ongoing recovery assistance for impacted residents and communities.

Recovering from a disaster takes time. The Red Cross and its partners will continue to be active in the months ahead to help people in South Carolina recover from last year's devastating floods.



Partners in Recovery for South Carolina

A recovery effort of this size is larger than any one organization, and the Red Cross is awarding grants to a number of nonprofits with specialized expertise and strong local ties. These grants have supported a network of skilled, community-based services that can best meet flood survivors' needs.

We are providing funding for home repair and rebuilding efforts led by the South Carolina Baptist Convention and Lighthouse Ministries in counties heavily impacted by the flooding. Supporting both damage assessments and the work of volunteers performing repairs, this aid will help ensure that flood survivors can return to safe, secure and sanitary housing.

The Red Cross is also helping to fund recovery work by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Their efforts span all 24 affected counties and include disaster case management as well as the House-in-a-Box program, which provides new household items to qualified families after disasters.

In addition, the Red Cross is supporting Operation Hope, which will provide financial counseling services geared to South Carolina residents that continue to recover from the flooding, helping them both regain financial stability and prepare for future disasters. We are also working with long-term recovery groups (LTRGs) in communities across the state in a variety of ways, from serving on LTRG committees to providing staffing and supplies to funding for housing assistance and more recovery needs.

Volunteers Help Repair Columbia Resident's Flood-Damaged Home



Betty Shelton's Columbia, S.C., home was flooded in 2015, causing severe mold growth. The Red Cross partnered with the Saint Bernard Project to remediate the mold, so that Betty and her family will be able to return to their home. American Red Cross

In July 2016, volunteers from the Saint Bernard Project (SBP) and other nonprofit organizations finished work on Betty Shelton's Columbia, S.C. home, which was damaged by the devastating floods. Mold remediation and repair for the home—one of those hardest-hit during the 2015 floods—was supported through shared funding provided by the Red Cross and our partners.

During the floods, water was several feet above the crawl space, causing heavy damage and fostering an environment for mold to grow. Dressed in restrictive safety gear and protective clothing, the volunteer workers braved punishing summer temperatures to remove the mold,

which is harmful to human health, as well as to repair damaged walls and floors throughout the house.

Reggie Mister, a volunteer and SBP on-site supervisor for the mold remediation process, is a graduate student at Clemson University. He seized the opportunity to help the community recover from the flood by taking a one-year hiatus from his graduate program. Reggie told us that he was motivated to volunteer “[to help] the world around him and to eliminate some of the suffering.”

“The work I’m doing gives meaning to why I wake up every day,” he said.

Thank you!

The Red Cross must be ready for every disaster, big or small, and we respond to an average of nearly 66,000 disasters per year—including single-family or apartment home fires, severe weather, floods and wildfires. Those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us right after the disaster and through their recovery. Your donation helps us fulfill this promise. We are grateful for your trust.