

Options for Providing Disaster Relief Assistance

Disaster struck: What to do when you are wondering how to help.

SEND CASH *(The fastest way to help is to send cash donations.)*

- **How do you donate cash and be assured that your donation is going to benefit the community directly?**

If you choose to give a monetary donation, it is best to make sure that the donation is given to a trusted voluntary, faith or community-based organization. Cash donations enable relief organizations to purchase what those impacted need most. Cash donations also provide money to the local economy, enabling businesses to recover more quickly.

- Research an organization to make sure they will use your donation effectively. Visit:
[Charity Navigator](#) [BBB Wise Giving Alliance](#) [Charity Watch](#)
- Make donations to a National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) member organization.
[NVOAD Member Organizations](#)
- If you decide to conduct your own fundraiser to collect cash donations, the websites below offer ideas.
[Go Fund](#) [You Caring](#) [Mobile Cause](#) [American Red Cross](#)

Please note that there could be tax implications for you or your student organization. If you have questions regarding tax-related matters that arise from fundraising activities, you may consult Carolina Student Legal Services <http://studentlegalservices.web.unc.edu/>.

SEND DONATED GOODS

- **Instead of a cash donation, you decide to collect goods to donate. What are some options?**

If you decide to collect and/or donate goods, first contact organizations to see what is needed. Unsolicited goods could cause organizations to redirect manpower away from providing direct services.

- Once you collect the goods, arrange a drop off or pick up, or register your donation to be sent.
[NVOAD Donation Register](#)

VOLUNTEER

- **You are available to volunteer at a disaster site. How do you get there or connect with an organization that's on the ground?**

It is best to first register as a volunteer with a local or nationally known organization before arriving at the disaster area. By registering first, you avoid burdening communities where resources for food and shelter may already be scarce. Take any necessary disaster-related trainings, such as C.P.R.

- Register to volunteer through:
[NVOAD](#)
[Volunteer Match](#)
[American Red Cross](#)
- To organize your own relief trip, use this guide and form to get started.
[Relief trip planning guide](#)