

# HURRICANE KATRINA



## HELP CHURCHES RESPOND

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is following the lead of local churches to meet the needs of those affected by the storm. MCC is also working in partnership with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), which is conducting cleanup and rebuilding efforts in the disaster area.

The initial MCC response to Hurricane Katrina will total nearly \$1.7 million. This includes more than \$500,000 in material aid that has already been delivered and an estimated \$1.2 million MCC is seeking for the local church response.

Some churches, like a Native American Mennonite church in Poarch, Ala., have been responding to the disaster since the hurricane hit. The Poarch Community Church hosted 50 evacuees during the first days after the hurricane and is now involved in further disaster response in Poarch and Houma, La.

Others in Louisiana, like the members of the Iglesia Amor Viviente in Metairie, Comunidad Cristiana Internacional, Harahan, and Iglesia Evangélica Garífuna, New Orleans, are now hurricane evacuees. "The majority of the brothers and sisters lost everything. Their apartments and houses are there, but everything is ruined," Rev. Karl Bernhard of Amor Viviente said.

The Houston Mennonite church is assisting some of the hundreds of thousands of evacuees now in the state with finding housing and support. In Meridian, Miss., the Jubilee Mennonite church turned their gymnasium into a Red Cross processing center. More than 300 families are being processed each day.

Your money contributions will help these churches bring restoration and healing to their communities while meeting the needs of those suffering from the Hurricane Katrina.

### Your contribution provides:

- Food, medical, household supplies
- Transportation for local pastors to visit members who are evacuees
- Assistance to marginalized families missed by government funding
- Fuel for vehicles to distribute supplies
- Hiring of local workers for immediate and long term response
- Addressing issues of injustice and racism around the disaster



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[www.mcc.org/katrina](http://www.mcc.org/katrina)