



# HURRICANE IDA

DISASTER RECOVERY









# IMPACT UPDATE

Hurricane Ida, the deadly Category 4 storm that hit the U.S. in late August 2021, was the second most damaging hurricane, behind Hurricane Katrina, to ever make landfall in Louisiana. Ida's path wreaked havoc through the U.S. with heavy rains and ensuing floods resulting in more than 90 lives lost and billions of dollars in property damage. Along with the personal anguish they carry because of the uncertainty, fear and loss experienced, survivors of Hurricane Ida have a long road to recovery ahead.

Catholic Charities (CC) agencies – from Louisiana to Mississippi to New York – were on the ground to provide immediate help. Their selfless efforts came at the same time many had experienced their own devastation.

Now months after Ida made landfall, our CC agencies continue to rebuild lives and provide help and hope in the communities they serve.

Assistance has come from outside the storm's path as well. Teams of Catholic Charities disaster case managers – from Sioux City, Brooklyn-Queens, and Central and Northern Missouri – have provided much needed relief for local caseworkers. And staff from other Catholic Charities have assisted on the ground to develop and implement recovery programming.

**This report is a glimpse into the disaster relief efforts of CC agencies and their impact in affected communities.**

# RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE GULF

(As of early December 2021)

## CC Houma-Thibodaux

- Distributed more than **500,000 pounds of goods**, such as tarps, cleaning supplies, baby items, clothing, food and water
- Disbursed more than **\$175,000 in gift cards to 3,000 families** at Catholic Charities distribution centers
- Coordinated the delivery of **meals for more than 200,000 people**
- Provided **laundry services** to survivors via a Mobile Response Center unit deployed from the Catholic Charities USA national office

**Ongoing Need:** *2,700 families still need housing, home repair and rebuild assistance, vehicle repairs and replacement of other critical items lost or damaged beyond repair*

## CC Baton Rouge

- **Served more than 447 households** – 332 virtually and 115 in-person
- Assessed needs of survivors and referred to appropriate **disaster-related resources**, such as assistance with disaster benefits applications, coordination with local staff for transportation help (gas, bus tickets, etc.) as well as assistance with rent and utilities
- Provided **1,500 meals** through local parishes
- Helped survivors find **shelter** and distributed buckets, clothing, tarps, water, etc.

**Ongoing Need:** *All households continue to have unmet needs for housing (rental assistance, locating affordable housing), home repair, and replacement furniture*



**A helping hand:** The home of a veteran flooded because of heavy rains from the storm. Due to military service-related injuries, she was unable to prepare for the hurricane or to complete any clean-up or repairs after the storm had passed. Catholic Charities of South Mississippi responded to her request for assistance by hiring a contractor and purchasing materials to repair her flooded home.



### CC Archdiocese of New Orleans

- Answered more than **986 requests** for assistance and 614 have been triaged and assigned to a disaster case manager
- Provided housing assistance, utilities support, transportation, gift cards, information and referrals
- **84 survivors** served are considered "Tier 4," a category designating the highest level of need (e.g., severely destroyed property, no insurance, low income)

*Ongoing Need: 724 households requesting help are still in need of some form of assistance*

### CC of Acadiana

- Provided disaster response **warehouse staging** for the Houma community
- Distributed **\$75,000 in gift cards** to survivors in Houma

### CC of Southwest Louisiana

- Provided **50,000 pounds of goods** (food, water, tarps, etc.) to CC Houma for distribution

### CC of South Mississippi

- Distributed **gift cards** to help with basic needs

*Ongoing Need: 71 households continue to receive disaster case management for their long-term recovery needs*



**A needed place to sleep:** A woman in Newark, New Jersey, lost all of her belongings in her apartment due to flooding from Hurricane Ida. She and her daughter went to live with a friend until her landlord could repair the apartment. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark donated two bed sets for them so they could have a place to sleep at night while waiting for their apartment to be repaired.





### CC of Mobile

- Served more than 730 individuals with food, gas and gift cards, lodging, and household items (such as diapers and infant formula, toiletries, medical kits, tarps, ice, mops, brooms, batteries and pet food)

### CC of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

- Served 1,758 families, including distributing gift cards to meet basic needs, such as temporary housing, food and clothing
- Provided replacement household items to damaged homes
- Conducted community outreach through parishes and Multi-Agency Resource Centers

### CC of Southeast Texas

- 266 families served, including distributing clothing and food boxes
- Provided financial assistance for temporary housing, food, clothing and other basic needs
- Replaced household items damaged in the hurricane
- Conducted community outreach through parishes and Multi-Agency Resource Centers



**A last-minute evacuation:** A mother decided just before Hurricane Ida made landfall to evacuate her home in New Orleans because of the gaining intensity of the storm. She left her home and community with haste taking only a few articles of clothing and minimal resources to provide for her two children. Upon arriving in Beaumont, Texas, she was in desperate need of rest and assistance. Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas provided shelter, food, clothing, and personal hygiene items while the family awaited the storm to pass through New Orleans.



# RELIEF EFFORTS IN INTERIOR U.S.

As Hurricane Ida continued its deadly path through the interior of the U.S., it caused extensive flooding resulting in loss of life, massive destruction and stranded communities. Catholic Charities, a 167-member agency network, was there to provide help and hope.

Services included providing financial assistance through gifts for temporary housing, water, clothing and other basic needs; delivery of food boxes and replacement household items; community outreach through parishes and Multi-Agency Resource Centers; and ongoing disaster case management.

More than 1,000 households have been served in:

- Catholic Charities of Camden (NJ)
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen (NJ)
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark (NJ)
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson (NJ)
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Jackson (MS)
- Catholic Charities Atlanta (GA)
- Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida



**Emerging needs:** In the Catholic Charities Diocese of Jackson in Mississippi, communities on the eastern shore of the Mississippi River reached out for assistance three months after Ida hit. CCUSA was able to connect them with their local CC agency for help. The communities had been hard hit, but received little support previously because of their rural and remote location. 520 families are now being helped, including a large group of senior households.





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