

Red Cross Provides Ongoing Assistance for Affected Communities

In March 2014, a sudden landslide swept away a one-mile stretch of homes near the rural community of Oso, Wash., leaving a devastating imprint on the nearby towns of Darrington and Arlington. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, more than 500 American Red Cross volunteers—half hailing from within the state—moved swiftly to help survivors. They served 29,000 meals and snacks to affected families and first responders, offered shelter for people with nowhere else to go and handed out thousands of comfort and relief items.

Powered by compassionate donations, the Red Cross continues to deliver vital assistance to affected families and communities as they recover and rebuild. We are providing direct financial aid for health and emotional support as well as housing solutions for people who lost their homes—including construction-related costs, mortgage assistance, furniture and appliance replacement expenses, security deposits, rent and utilities.

The Red Cross is working in close coordination with community leaders and government and nonprofit partners to help meet families' specific needs and ensure ongoing disaster case management for impacted residents. This effective collaboration also means that children have emotional support in school; that residents and survivors have access to a broad network of mental health professionals and resources; that depleted local food banks have been restocked; and that more than 500 emergency kits will be distributed to strengthen community preparedness.

A New Home and a Fresh Start for the Andrews Family

Suzan Andrews, a mother of three, lived with her family in her childhood home along the Stillaguamish River. When the landslide pushed the river over its banks, water rose to the eaves of their barn and flooded the family home. The Andrews family quickly evacuated, and, for several months, they stayed nearby at the home of a close friend.

Unfortunately, potential flooding and landslide threats made it too risky for the family to return home. Over the last year, the Andrews family has been putting the pieces of their lives back together, a difficult and



Debbie Lasky Fink (left), a local Disaster Mental Health volunteer, helped Red Cross workers provide emotional support to residents and families affected by the disaster.

The Red Cross has raised nearly \$4.8 million to assist people affected by the Washington landslide. As of February 23, 2015, the Red Cross has already spent or committed to spend \$3.7 million on emergency relief and recovery efforts, and remaining funds will be spent to meet recovery and preparedness needs in the affected communities.

Because of the generosity of our donors, the Red Cross can keep our commitment to these communities—offering critical assistance through the entire disaster cycle, from emergency response and recovery to helping them become better prepared for future emergencies.

emotionally trying process. “I lost the home where I grew up, and my husband and I had to drive by the disaster site every time we went to work,” said Andrews.

Red Cross-supported disaster case managers from Catholic Community Services worked with the Andrews family and, along with other partners in the Long-Term Recovery Group, the Red Cross provided the financial resources for a down payment on a new home in Arlington. As the Andrews family closed on their new home in September, they were thankful for a fresh start and the opportunity to move forward.

Emotional Support Helps Children Heal

Because of the Washington landslide’s devastating impact and the associated emotional trauma, additional long-term emotional support was a clear need in the wake of the disaster. When Red Cross disaster mental health specialist Ellin Ruffner consulted with community leaders and residents to develop a long-term emotional health strategy, people said they worried for their children, who seemed to be suffering the most.

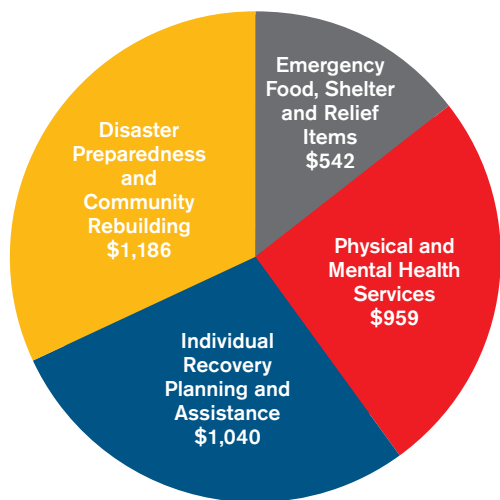
“Their community will never look the same, so 100 percent of the students are directly impacted,” said Megan Lucas, a full-time school counselor. “If they are living with everyday trauma, this impacts their ability to learn.”

Responding to this need, the Red Cross joined forces with the Cascade Valley Hospital Foundation, United Way and North Counties Family Services, hiring Lucas to work directly with more than 180 children in grades K–8. Through group sessions, such as “Lunch Bunch” and “Art with Heart,” she is helping affected students understand their shared grief and better cope with their traumatic experience.

The Red Cross is also funding Camp Noah, a locally hosted event for elementary-age children whose communities have been impacted by disaster. “Camp Noah is a fun and safe environment where they can face their fears and address their grief,” Ruffner said. “This way, they can be kids, play and build resiliency at the same time.”

Washington Landslide Expenses and Commitments*

Through February 23, 2015
\$3.7M (of nearly \$4.8M raised)
 (in thousands)



*An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

Emergency Food, Shelter and Relief Items

After big and small disasters, Red Cross volunteers and staff open shelters to provide safe refuge, serve nourishing meals to residents and first responders, and hand out needed relief items such as cleaning supplies, shovels and hygiene kits. We also maintain a network of warehouses, technology and response vehicles to provide relief where it’s needed most.

Physical and Mental Health Services

The Red Cross cares for the basic health needs and emotional well-being of disaster survivors. Our volunteers and staff help provide services such as first aid support, replacing prescription medicines or eyeglasses, and helping people to cope.

Individual Recovery Planning and Assistance

The Red Cross helps people rebuild their lives in the aftermath of disasters of all sizes by supporting both immediate and longer-term recovery needs. This includes working one-on-one with survivors to create recovery plans, navigate paperwork, replace clothing and groceries, as well as find housing solutions, transportation assistance and other support.

Disaster Preparedness and Community Rebuilding

The Red Cross helps communities plan and prepare for disasters. This includes offering community trainings and distributing preparedness information and resources, such as smoke alarms, that can help save lives. The Red Cross also supports broader recovery initiatives to help communities meet specific disaster-caused needs, such as community rebuilding projects.

Thank You

The Red Cross responds to an average of nearly 70,000 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 donations help us fulfill this promise, and we are grateful for your trust.