



**An Invitation to Partner  
with Hurricane Recovery  
[www.futurewithhope.org](http://www.futurewithhope.org)**

The Gulf Coast Synod is still recovering from devastating hurricanes that have impacted people from New Orleans to Galveston Island over the past three years. Important work is being supported largely by volunteers who come from around the country to offer time, prayer, resources and hard work. This partnership is transforming those who serve and those who are being served. Our Lutheran Christian witness at its best as we become visible and present in rebuilding the Gulf Coast.

We are especially encouraging volunteers to use the contact list to the right to make plans to partner with this massive recovery effort. Groups should be as self sufficient as possible. Students groups should have at least one adult for every six to eight youth who participate, preferably parents. Preparation before serving includes learning about the area you plan to enter, emotionally preparing to accompany people in crisis, praying for the community you will serve and securing necessary housing, equipment and meal arrangements.

We enter into hurricane-impacted areas with humility, remembering that people's lives will never be the same. For some the results of flooding and a faltering economy has moved their once stable life into serious crisis. There is a particular need to help people without insurance, with limited financial assets, the elderly, handicapped or single mothers. We are grateful that you will partner with us as we practice our faith together. Thanks for making this a priority.

**Baton Rouge Volunteers:**

Duane and Judie Schafer  
Info: [www.ifedgbr.com](http://www.ifedgbr.com)  
Email: [hope@ifedgbr.com](mailto:hope@ifedgbr.com)  
Phone: 225.343.8270 ext.230

**Galveston County:**

Volunteer Reception Center  
Phone: 409.797.3710  
Verronda Flanagan  
Phone: 832.370.3099

**In-kind Donations**

Erin Tobermann, Director  
[Help4Galveston.org](http://Help4Galveston.org)  
Phone: 281.460.0818  
Email: [erin@help4galveston.org](mailto:erin@help4galveston.org)

**Lutheran Social Service/  
Lutheran Disaster Response**

Cell: 979.236.2017  
Email: [bscrogin@lss.org](mailto:bscrogin@lss.org)

**Houston / Harris County:**

LINC (Lutheran Intercity Network Coalition)  
Gwen Franke, Director of Volunteers  
Phone: 713.517.2451  
Email: [office@linchouston.org](mailto:office@linchouston.org)  
Web: [www.linchouston.org](http://www.linchouston.org)  
Phone: 713.512.4901

**Southeast Texas**

Beaumont, Bridge City,  
Orange, Port Arthur)  
LINC—see information above  
Also  
SETIO  
Louis May, Volunteer Coordinator  
Phone: 409.982.1510  
Cell: 409.549.1976  
Email: [Louis.may@lss.org](mailto:Louis.may@lss.org)

**New Orleans**

**Peace Lutheran Church, Slidell, LA**  
Phone: 985.641.6400, Pastor Barb Simmers

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, N.O., LA**  
Phone: 504.895.7050, Pastor Patrick Keen

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Chalmette, LA**  
Phone: 504-271-4354, Pastor Jim Shears

**Grace Lutheran Church, N.O., LA**  
Phone: 504.482.4994, Leon Philpot

Lutheran Social Services  
Jessica Vermilyea  
Email: [jessica.vermilyea@lss.org](mailto:jessica.vermilyea@lss.org)