



**Nazarene  
Compassionate  
Ministries**

*Compassion as a lifestyle*



**August 2015**

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## About NCM USA/Canada

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to live and act compassionately in the world following Christ's own life and ministry. We seek to be incarnations of the same gospel that Christ lived and preached and to be witnesses to the same love and compassion God has for our world.

**In the United States and Canada, NCM works closely with Compassionate Ministry Centers (CMCs) to bring compassion and healing to communities that need the love and presence of Christ.**

### Mission

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada partners with Nazarene interests to facilitate ministries which address the temporal as well as the spiritual needs of the economically disadvantaged.

### Churches

Local churches are the primary avenue for Nazarenes to reach out to those in their communities. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to support churches in starting and maintaining ministry to

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

Disasters can happen in the blink of an eye. Hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and tragedies in our schools and churches are becoming more prevalent in our everyday lives. As the Church, it is our job to respond and show love in the midst of these disasters.



In this issue you will see ways for the church to serve during horrible crisis events. Our dream is for every district to have a team to respond within minutes of a disaster. It is important for us to be a visible presence and serve our communities together.

Thanks for all you do,

Jay Height

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Coordinator, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada

## Current Funding Opportunities

**TD Charitable Foundation Housing for Everyone Grants** support programs that create or preserve affordable housing.

**Apply**

*Application Deadline: September 4, 2015*

*Award Amount: \$100,000*

**U.S. Soccer Foundation Safe Places to Play Grants** are awarded for installation of field surfaces, lights, and irrigation for field space in under-served urban communities. **Details**

the under-served and marginalized. We believe every church, no matter size or budget, can find ways to meet needs in their community with compassion, creative, and the firm foundation and life-changing power of the Gospel message.

### **CMCs- Compassionate Ministry Centers**

A Compassionate Ministry Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the under-resourced in the community. While these organizations are often affiliated with a specific local church, they are in a strategic position to unite others in their community around a high-needs cause.

### **NDR- Nazarene Disaster Response**

Nazarene Disaster Response is Nazarenes mobilizing for disaster through Readiness, Response, and Recovery. Local Nazarenes are in a unique position to understand, serve, and remain with disaster victims in their own neighborhoods. In large-scale events the denomination can come alongside local efforts with the support of volunteers and donors from across the country and through our strong partnerships with other disaster relief agencies. NDR serves victims regardless of race, creed, or economic status by concentrating on assistance to the poor, elderly, and handicapped.

### **W&W- Work & Witness**

Work & Witness provides opportunities for Nazarenes to serve together in support of existing ministries such as churches, CMCs, and Nazarene Disaster Response. Work & Witness can be any type of project, from construction to evangelism to compassionate outreach.

## **Contact**

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*Letter of Intent Deadline:* September 15, 2015

*Award Amount:* \$50,000

**Finish Line Youth Foundation** funds youth athletic programs that promote active lifestyle and team building skills, and sports-based camps that serve disadvantaged children. [\*\*More Information\*\*](#)

*Application Deadline:* September 30, 2015

*Award Amount:* \$1,000 - \$5,000

**Walmart Foundation Community Grants Program** supports hunger relief and healthy eating, sustainability, women's economic empowerment, and career opportunities. [\*\*Apply\*\*](#)

*Application Deadline:* December 31, 2015

*Award Amount:* \$2,500

**FEMA Public Assistance** funding helps communities recover by providing a 75% federal reimbursement for eligible, disaster-related projects. Private non-profit organizations that are open to the general public and provide services such as low income housing, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, programs for battered spouses, food programs, and homeless shelters are eligible to [\*\*apply\*\*](#).

**Hazard Mitigation Grant** opportunities are announced by States following a major disaster declaration. Non-profit Organizations are eligible to [\*\*apply\*\*](#).

# **Disaster Preparedness**

**Disaster Preparedness involves planning, training, and equipping before a disaster to prevent, protect against, and mitigate the effects.**

Preparedness planning improves resilience and reduces recovery time when unexpected disasters occur. Non-profit organizations can preserve their own operations, and support disaster relief and recovery efforts for the communities and clients they serve by maintaining their ability to continue providing essential services.

Prepare for disaster by creating a **Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)** that aligns with local and national preparedness guidelines using [\*\*FEMA's COOP template and instructions\*\*](#). The COOP helps to protect the organizational assets, mitigate damages, resume critical functions, and restore normal operations by:

- Prioritizing critical internal processes and functions of the organization within the community
- Listing resources and activities to support each critical function
- Planning how to maintain leadership and problem-solving



- during a disaster
- Preserving vital business records
- Gathering employee personal contact information to use in an disaster
- Outlining emergency services and evacuation routes for the organization
- Planning for interruption of critical supplies and services
- Assigning disaster operations roles, order of succession, and delegation of authority.

Organizations should test COOP procedures including how staff will be notified, what role they will play, and how communication will be handled before, during, and after the disaster.

Other key preparedness activities include the following:

- Developing a support network by cultivating relationships with local officials and organizations
- Defining roles and responsibilities for emergencies and disasters

## Resources

**Nazarene Disaster Response (NDR)** equips local congregations to respond effectively to natural disasters affecting their districts.

### **NDR District Disaster Preparedness Training**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Resources** for Voluntary, Faith-based, and Community Organizations.

**Ready.gov** aims to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies. The website provides guidelines for building an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, and being informed about different types of emergencies and appropriate responses.

## Nazarene Disaster Response: 10 Years After Katrina

It is hard to believe that this August marks the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the devastation she rendered on the Gulf Coast. Just days after Katrina hit, there was a group of Nazarene church leaders gathered at the Baton Rouge First Church of the Nazarene trying to figure out



what our response was going to be. We weren't the only ones who didn't know what our response would look like at the time. Search and recovery was still going on and helicopters were still pulling people off of rooftops. Two years later, I left New Orleans with Josh Manson (he helped coordinate the church's rebuilding efforts in Louisiana) and we reflected on our response. **In the end, the church responded by giving millions of dollars, working on over a thousand projects, and mobilizing over 10,000 volunteers to serve in rebuilding efforts!**

Nazarene Disaster Response (NDR) on our region began in 1994. Over the past 21 years its scope and dynamics have changed. From the large-scale responses needed for Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy to the smaller responses by a single district or even a local church, each disaster has dictated the need. However, no matter the size of the response, the mission has always been the same: God uses people to serve those who have experienced a disaster.

As I reflect back on what was accomplished during our 23 months in the Gulf Coast, I don't remember the type of paint we used, how many shingles we put on roofs, or the number of sheets of drywall used to repair homes. I remember the people who lived in the homes and the volunteers. As devastating as Katrina was, our response wouldn't have been the same without the human element.

### **People matter to God, and His love compels us to serve!**

That is why I believe it is necessary for the Church to be ready to serve their communities when disaster strikes. NDR is a ministry of the USA/Canada Region that provides resources in the form of education, training, and expertise to districts in order to enable the Church to respond to disasters. NDR exists to prepare and empower the local church to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the midst of disaster.

**I invite you to stop reading for 30 seconds and think about what your church would do if 50% of your community were completely destroyed by a disaster today.**

***Are you prepared?*** I would guess that 90% or more of you would answer no.

***Now what are you going to do about it?***

***Will you wait until it happens or will you prepare today?***

Next month, **NDR will be launching their new District Disaster Response Training.** This training has been designed to help equip local churches, through their districts, to be prepared when disaster strikes. Whether it's a small home fire or a large, multi-state disaster this training will help you, your church, and your district to be prepared. I invite you to begin the conversation with your district leadership and use this training opportunity.

Let's serve together,

George Sisler  
*Nazarene Disaster Response USA/Canada Region Coordinator*

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