

Possible Ways to Assist Western North Carolina in the Aftermath of Hurricane Helene (as of 10/22/24):

1. Pray

2. Donate

- a. **NC Synod Disaster Fund** [Online Giving \(accessacs.com\)](https://accessacs.com)
 - i. Click “where needed most” and can put “disaster relief” in memo line
- b. **Lutheran Disaster Response** [Hurricane Response - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](https://www.elca.org/hurricane-response)
- c. **Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas**
 - i. [Online Giving](#)
 1. Under “Select Fund” use the pull down menu to select “Lutheran Disaster Response”
 - ii. Or send a check to: LDR Carolinas, 1988 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144
 - iii. LDR Carolinas offers frequent updates on their Facebook page: [\(1\) Facebook](#)
- d. **Novus Way** – Camps Lutheridge and Lutherock
 - i. If you would like to make a gift for disaster recovery, you can do that online at www.novusway.org. Select "where needed most" or your camp of choice. If you'd like to mail a check to camp, include "Disaster and camp name" in the memo:
NovusWay Ministries
PO Box 830
Arden, NC 28704
 - ii. NovusWay currently has a \$100,000 matching gift for disaster relief gifts.
- e. **Lutheran Services Carolinas** is assisting their senior housing and New Americans clients in the Asheville Area.
 - i. Follow along with their journey here: [Facebook](#)
 - ii. Support their efforts here: [Donate \(Onetime\) - Lutheran Services Carolinas \(lscarolinas.net\)](https://www.lscarolinas.net/donate)
 1. choose “where needed most” and include in comments “LSC Disaster Relief Fund.”

3. From Pastor Ruth Ann and Pastor Ray at LDR

- a. **Crisis Cleanup needs phone volunteers.** You work from home, use your own computer to take and record calls. We will add you as a member of our team and you can take the short online training and start to work! There are hundreds of calls needing to be answered!

This can be done from anywhere in the US. You only need a computer and internet service. Training is provided.

Contact Pastor Ruth Ann (ruthann@ldrcarolinas.org) and Pastor Ray (ray@ldrcarolinas.org) if you are interested in learning more!

b. **NC VOAD (NC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters)**

anticipates a need for volunteers to staff Points of Distribution (PODs). No experience needed. Volunteers might be passing out bottled water, hygiene kits, or cleaning supplies, for

example. If you would like to volunteer, email: mail@ncvoad.org

***UPDATE:** North Carolina expects to open a warehouse in the Charlotte-Mooresville area this Saturday, 10/12, and needs volunteers to operate it. The contents will initially include donations and supplies for survivors and transition to building materials for recovery.

North Carolina expects to need 100 volunteers each day. Volunteers should be from the Charlotte-Mooresville area since housing cannot be provided.

They also would like to find a few managers who could work for a longer period, scheduling volunteer groups to work for shorter periods of a week or two.

If you can help, please contact LDR Carolinas (at email address in 3a) and they will pass your name on or you can try to contact VOAD at email address in 3b.

c. **An urgent need is for the first Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) to be opened in Western NC on Friday.**

The United Way Offices (CEO Dan LeRoy) at 50 South French Broad Street is going to be the site. Timeline: training by zoom 10/16, open the VRC 10/18.

The general idea: people eager to volunteer are showing up at PODs and Comfort Care Stations in numbers greater than can be effectively used at each location. Those volunteers will be directed to the VRC as well as anyone who wants to volunteer to help, either local or from NC or out of state. The Volunteer Reception Center will register people and then send them to sites where their willingness and skills can be more effective. The list of sites for volunteers will come from the various county and volunteer organizations. At the VRC, a person's information and skill set will be noted.

They will sign a waiver and get safety training and information on a volunteer site.

The VRC will be open 7 days a week from 6am-1pm for at least a month (brings us to Thanksgiving) at 50 South French Broad Street. The daily staffing needs will be 12-15 people. It is estimated at 60-70+ people will show up daily. The flow of work at the VRC will be adapted as needed.

Having a VRC will be a huge assistance to the recovery process, more effectively utilizing volunteers. It is being set up at the request of the County/City and coordinated by FEMA.

VRC volunteers will be public facing, interacting with eager volunteers and potentially with community citizens who are looking for help and frustrated.

Volunteers can contact Margaret Ashby at 828-226-4928 as we begin to schedule staffing for the center.

****LDR will cover housing at Lutheridge for those volunteers needing it.**

4. Donate blood if you are eligible

- a. Affected areas won't be able to collect at normal operating levels for a long while. Critical need will only increase.

5. Consider if shopping online from stores in areas impacted by the storm makes sense for your upcoming holiday gifting to help stimulate the mountain economy.

- a. [All – Brands of WNC](#)

6. LDR has requested the slowing up of Comfort Care Kits and Clean Up Buckets that are not already in the works. We have a set of Clean Up Buckets to be assembled still that will be delivered to a storage area.

7. CIC has:

- a. A group of men spent the day on 10/12 at Lutheridge helping them become more accessible as a resource for aid in the area.
 - i. Be on the lookout for similar day trips in the near and distant future.
- b. Assembled 20 more Children's Comfort Kits
- c. Knitters donated all of their current hat and scarf inventory and Pastor Michael delivered them to a collection site at Grace Lutheran Church in Boone.
- d. The quilters will direct this year's quilts to Western North Carolina after their blessing in November.