Letter carriers pitching in to help NALC Disaster Relief Foundation

From the severe floods in Texas to wildfires in California, this fall has brought reminders that natural disasters can strike any part of the country and affect anyone. And so, NALC branches and members remain determined in their desire to provide aid to members who are affected by these disasters.

Far too many times recently, the Golden State has been witness to devastating disasters that have wreaked havoc on our sisters and brothers. Fire, being one of those disastrous events, seems to be a frequent visitor to the Golden State, and in previous years, several members have lost their homes as a result. The latest round of wildfires in October and November threatened thousands of houses and forced many residents, including NALC members, to evacuate their homes. Based on the most recent accounts as this issue of The Postal Record went to press, no letter carriers have lost their homes to this round of fires. However, there are confirmed reports that some members have lost personal property. Fortunately, all those who evacuated are back in their homes, safe and sound. But the fire threat in California is always present.

NALC, through the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, answered the call from branches and individual members who wanted a mechanism to send cash donations, supplies, uniforms and other assistance to their sisters and brothers affected by natural disasters. The Foundation is structured so that when a natural disaster occurs, an immediate assessment can be made, followed up by much-needed relief being provided to our affected members.

NALC President Fredric Rolando announced the formation of the Foundation at the 2018 national convention in Detroit. “The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation reflects the will of the members, who have asked for a way to help their fellow sisters and brothers quickly and efficiently,” Rolando said.

Since then, hundreds of individual donors, branches and state associations have pitched in to help the Foundation build its capacity to assist regular NALC members in need.

On the following two pages, we list the hundreds of donors who have pitched in since the Foundation was created, listed by branch number.

“We thank these supporters, and we know there will be more to follow because letter carriers always look out for each other,” Rolando said.

Rolando urged letter carriers to consider supporting the Foundation this December, in the spirit of the season. Your contribution may be eligible for a tax deduction (seek further advice from your tax advisor).

Donations should be sent to NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

All donations from letter carriers, branches and state associations go directly to NALC members who need assistance—no administrative costs are deducted.

Grants are provided for property damage sustained to a member’s primary residence, auto or personal property from events such as, but not limited to, hurricanes, floods, tornados, wildfires, earthquakes or severe storms. Any regular NALC member who has faced hardship as a result of a natural disaster can apply for assistance by completing the Application for Relief Grant (available on the Foundation’s web page, nalc.org/disaster). The eligibility requirements are outlined in the application. The Foundation’s board of directors will consider the applications and will issue grants on an objective basis to eligible individuals as funds are available. Members do not have to wait for emergency relief or insurance claims to be settled to apply. Applications must be received no later than 120 days after the date when the natural disaster occurred, unless the applicant can provide sufficient reasons for a delay.

The Foundation recently published a Member’s Guide to help letter carriers prepare for disasters, donate to the Foundation to help others and obtain assistance if they are affected by a disaster. The Member’s Guide, the applications for grants and other information are available at nalc.org/disaster. The Foundation also is developing volunteer response teams of letter carriers with the training needed to respond directly to disasters.

“The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation is growing quickly, thanks to its generous supporters,” Rolando said. “We already have begun to provide assistance and support to NALC members struck by disaster. Not only does the Foundation help these letter carriers get back on their feet, it shows them that they aren’t alone in their struggles. Let’s continue to be there for our sisters and brothers in need.”

NALC Disaster Relief Foundation

Make a donation by sending a check or money order to NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.
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