



Daily BRIEF

Hurricane Helene Response Update



MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024

TODAY'S GBDR & MISSION GEORGIA UPDATE:

Please take note of FAQs that are updated.

UPDATE:

All FAQs are the same as Friday's brief. We are thankful for new volunteers at each site that are rotating in to provide relief from the initial teams.

Please pray diligently for the state of Florida as they anticipate Hurricane Milton to make landfall midweek.

CHURCH AND MINISTRY STAFF ASSESSMENTS AS OF 10/4/2024:

- 970 Churches and AMSs have been contacted
- 103 Churches have been identified as "impacted" and assessed
- 70 Pastors, Ministry Staff, and/or AMSs have been identified as "impacted" and assessed

CHURCH-TO-CHURCH:

Please [CLICK HERE](#) or email jstevens@gabaptist.org if you desire to be matched to a local church. Note that we do not have the resources to manage collection, transportation, or distribution. We can match you with another church capable of partnering with you. Please do not call due to volume.

GBDR + SUPPORT STATES STATISTICS (as of 10/4 am):

- 134,370 meals prepared
- 563 assessments completed
- 101 chainsaw jobs completed
- 473 heavy equipment hours
- 78 public showers
- 16,828 work hours by volunteers
- 2231 ministry contacts
- 8 professions of faith
- 166 gospel presentations

GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION

Several points of distribution have been established throughout the state. These are drive-up locations where individuals in the affected areas are encouraged to pick up essential items. Resources available at each site varies but might include water, tarps, roofing materials, etc. The following list will be continuously updated.

County

Atkinson	Willacoochee City Hall, 33 Fleetwood Ave West, Willacoochee Atkinson Co. Fire Station, 33 Austin Ave West, Pearson
Ben Hill	Ben Hill County Health Dept., 251 Appomattox Rd, Fitzgerald
Berrien	800 Tifton Rd, Nashville
Brooks	400 E. Courtland Avenue, Quitman 178 Second Street, Morven
Candler	555 W. Lytell St., Metter, GA 30439
Echols	Community Center, 148 Church of God St, Statenville

Evans	613 W. Main Street, Claxton
Jeff Davis	31 Pat Dixon Rd, Hazlehurst
Jefferson	1200 School Street, Louisville
	101 Griffin St, Wrens
	138 Church St, Wadley
Lanier	28 South Valdosta Hwy, Lakeland
Laurens	1794 Hwy 117, Rentz
	930 East Hwy 80, East Dublin
Lowndes	First Baptist Church Lake Park, 601 W. Marion Ave, Lake Park
	Five Points, 3103 N. Ashley St, Valdosta
	Flying Tiger Storage, 4036 Bemiss Rd, Valdosta
	Hahira Train Depot, 220 W. Main St, Hahira
	Lowndes County Civic Center, 2102 E. Hill Ave, Valdosta
McDuffie	229 Knox River Rd, Thomson
Montgomery	701C Dobbins St, Mount Vernon
Richmond	4335 Windsor Spring Rd, Hephzibah
	1631 Gordon Hwy, Augusta
	535 Telfair St, Augusta
Screven	Screven County Elementary School, 1333 Frontage Rd East, Sylvania
Telfair	181 East Oak St, McRae-Helena
	65 Main St, Lumber City
Toombs	First Baptist Church, 107 E Second St, Vidalia
	Southeastern Technical College, 3001 East 1st Street, Vidalia
Treutlen	4145 Fowler St, Soperton
Ware	Ware County Fire Station, 3411 Harris Rd, Waycross
Warren	169 SR-80, Warrenton
Wheeler	16 West 4th Ave, Alamo

FAQ:

WHAT IS GEORGIA BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF DOING TO RESPONSE AND SERVE THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES?

GBDR is deploying all resources at its disposal to the areas most impacted by Hurricane Helene. Partnership with other states, the American Red Cross, and Salvation Army are essential to meet the extensive needs of these communities. The five sites include:

Valdosta: Northside Baptist Church
 200 E Park Ave, Valdosta
 Pastor: Robbie Foster/912-251-9510
 White Hat: John Pearce
 Public Phone: 1-800-806-6940

Augusta: Fleming Baptist Church
 3027 Peach Orchard Road, Augusta
 White Hat: Toby Tucker
 Public Phone: 573-418-7793

Alma: First Baptist Alma
 201 N. Church St, Alma
 Pastor: Ron Sweett/256-499-4373
 White Hat: Thomas Nix
 Cell Phone: 601-572-9538 (No Public Phone)

Statesboro: Southbridge Community Church
 12373 U.S. Highway 301, Statesboro
 White Hat: Felton Floyd
 Public Phone: 770-853-1339

Vidalia: Vidalia First Baptist
 107 E. 2nd Street, Vidalia
 Pastor: Chad Ritchie/912-293-1383
 White Hat: Jim Croome
 Public Phone: 770-853-4410

GBDR's primary services include meal preparation, chainsaw/tree removal, and tarping. Shower services are also available at all five locations.

WHEN WILL EACH SITE BE READY FOR RESPONSE?

Each site is fully functional. Chaplains are available at sites.

HOW MAY HOMEOWNERS NEEDING ASSISTANCE CONTACT GBDR?

A public number is available for homeowners requiring assistance: 404-904-5263.

CAN THE DR SITES ACCEPT WALK-UP VOLUNTEERS?

Yes, in small numbers. Leadership at each site determines how many volunteers they can coordinate. You may contact a site if you have a desire to serve. All volunteers will be required to complete paperwork and must be 18+.

IS IT COMMON TO PARTNER WITH OTHER STATES AND NON-PROFITS?

Absolutely. The other states help us scale our response based on the extensive impact of Hurricane Helene. Non-profits such as American Red Cross and The Salvation Army serve specific roles in the response. For instance, GBDR will set up kitchens and prepare meals, ARC and SA will distribute the meals throughout the communities.

HOW IS FOOD DISTRIBUTION DETERMINED?

We understand that there are affected areas that are still unreached with meals. The routes of meal distribution are determined by our partners in The Salvation Army and American Red Cross. We are continuing discussion about possible solutions to reach these other areas.

WHERE IS THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT OF GBDR'S RESPONSE?

An Incident Management Team (IMT) is serving out of the GBMB office in Suwanee. All questions and communication flows from there to each site.

WHAT CAN A CHURCH DO TO PARTNER WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN THE AFFECTED AREA?

Churches with supplies and volunteers can email Joy Stevens at jstevens@gabaptist.org to be aligned with a church that has resources to meet needs in their community.

WHAT CAN A CHURCH OR INDIVIDUAL DO TO HELP IN THE NEAR TERM?

First, be patient. The process of responding to disasters of this magnitude is slow and methodical. Teams like ours serve under the direction of federal and state entities who determined the accessibility and safety for all involved. Flexibility is key as the situation on the ground changes often.

Mobilizing volunteers and sending supplies to GBDR sites is not preferred. The systems and structures are not in place to receive, manage, store, or deploy products such as cleaning supplies, diapers, clothing, furniture, etc. These items often end up in warehouses and landfills when the response is completed.

GBDR is prepared to utilize small numbers of walk-up volunteers at some locations for tasks that do not require training or credentials, but they are not prepared for large numbers or church groups. Please contact the site for more information.

The five sites will receive bottled water, sports drinks, and prepackaged prepared foods. Please do not send food that requires refrigeration or preparation.

Collecting gift cards and providing them to the GBDR sites is also an excellent way to support the response.

Stores such as Walmart and grocery stores are best to help meet the broad needs.

WHAT CAN A CHURCH OR INDIVIDUAL DO TO HELP IN THE LONG RUN?

Churches can prepare for long-term support for churches that will need it. We know churches are the center of the community and often serve as the hub for responses such as these. The sooner a church is back to normal, the sooner they can serve their community.

After this initial stage of assessment, we will know churches that need repairs and long-term financial help. It typically takes more than one church to help them recover. We will help coordinate partnerships between churches.

HOW ARE WE ASSISTING CHURCHES AND MINISTRY LEADERS AFFECTED BY THE STORM?

Funds have been allocated through Mission Georgia to provide for the repairs required to affected Georgia Baptist churches and homes of ministry staffs. Specifically, these funds will be used to at least partially pay insurance deductibles if damages are extensive enough that a claim would be necessary. A GBMB Assessment Team is deployed throughout the affected area traveling from church to church to assess the impact on their properties. The team is organized by associations and working diligently to attend to the needs of each church as quickly as possible.

The Assessment Team is gathering important details about the condition of their properties, their insurance policies, and the potential of long-term need. That information is shared with our team to determine how we can support them financially.

HOW CAN DONATIONS BE MADE?

- Georgia Baptist churches may give through ga.sbcworkspace.com (iGo). A Mission Georgia-Storm Response fund has been added to their giving options. This route allows churches to make electronic fund transfers and use credit cards.
- Gifts from churches or individuals may also be made to Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief or Mission Georgia. Links to giving to either of those can be found on the home page of gabaptist.org and on missiongeorgia.org. These options allow for multiple payment options. *Any links you share publicly through social media should go through this channel.*

WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH THAT IS NOT GOING TO FILE AN INSURANCE CLAIM BUT HAS REPAIRS THAT REQUIRE ASSISTANCE?

Our desire is to provide assistance where it is needed. As we understand the needs of the churches in the affected area, we will be able to determine the amount we can distribute per affected church.

HOW ARE ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARIES INVOLVED IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

Our Field Assessment team is intentionally connecting with AMS as they go from area to area. Where AMS desire to partner with us in the assessment process, they are joining with us. In some cases AMS are initiating their own responses.

AMS that require assistance in the affected areas may contact one of the GBDR response sites.

ARE AMS INCLUDED IN THE ASSESSMENT FOR PERSONAL NEEDS AND DAMAGE TO THEIR HOMES?

Yes. They may contact Joy Stevens at jstevens@gabaptist.org to request an assessment.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- That the gospel would be spread and people would come to faith as they are loved and served
- Comfort for families who have lost loved ones and others who still do not know the status of their family members
- For everyone impacted through loss of homes, precious belongings, and more
- Wisdom for decision-makers who are navigating the complexity of this response
- Safety for everyone responding and serving during the recovery
- For power to be restored to communities, especially in the county areas

RECENT STORIES FROM THE CHRISTIAN INDEX:

- [Valdosta pastor moved by Helene response: 'This is the power of Southern Baptists working together' \(10/6/2024\)](#)
- [Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief begins feeding operations in Mount Vernon, Ga. \(10/3/2024\)](#)
- [Georgia Baptists allocate \\$1M for direct support of churches affected by Hurricane Helene \(10/1/2024\)](#)
- [Georgia Baptists respond to Helene with support for churches and individuals \(9/30/2024\)](#)
- [Southern Baptist relief efforts deployed throughout Southeast in response to historic Helene \(9/30/2024\)](#)
- [Hurricane Helene tears deadly and destructive path through Georgia \(09/27/2024\)](#)