

GREATER RENTON C.O.A.D.

Community Organizations Active in Disaster

...matching unmet human needs with community resources



Unmet Needs

During a disaster, because professional emergency responders are inundated by calls for service, help cannot always get to those who need it quickly enough. Additionally, many community resources remain untapped, or duplication of effort occurs. The result is delayed services to people at a time when they are desperately needed.



After a disaster, the problem of unmet human needs can be no less acute, but continues for days, weeks, and even months. But with the visible reminder of disaster gone, these people and their suffering may become invisible, easily overlooked by their own community. Individuals and families may not know who to turn to for assistance in this unfamiliar experience.

Bridging the Gap

Federal disaster assistance programs do not meet all the needs of the community following a disaster. Washington Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (<http://wavoad.org>) and the local Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) (www.rentoncoad.org) work together to help people put their lives back together.

A COAD identifies and addresses unmet needs at the local level. No single organization has all of the resources or skills necessary to handle every issue that they encounter. But networked together through a COAD, the member organizations share information about requests for service. They may pool resources or divide responsibilities among themselves to serve those in need.

COAD members represent six sectors of our community:

- Neighborhoods
- Schools
- Businesses
- Government
- Faith Community
- Non-profits



Getting Involved

It's easy to get started. Members simply agree to be part of the network and share their current contact information. Some members are more active than others in preparing for their disaster role. They attend meetings to plan for better coordination in an emergency. Any community organization may send a representative to the COAD meetings.

The Greater Renton COAD meets at the Renton Technical College main campus, 3000 NE 4th, Building "I", in one of the lower level cafeteria conference rooms. (See <http://www.rtc.edu> for map.) The group meets the third Thursday of most months from 6:30-8:30 pm. The COAD does not meet in June, August, November or December.

How Can Your Organization Help?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal services | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter staffing, space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child care/programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Space (indoor, outdoor) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting/organizing donations | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone bank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction tools/materials/skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer organizing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling /mental health | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers from membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution point for food, medications, etc. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Door-to-door outreach | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment assistance | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food/food prep skills/kitchen | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household goods | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information and referral | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter/language assistance | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skilled labor | |

Contact the COAD

If you can help our community after a disaster, please contact the COAD today:
Call 425.430.7027 or e-mail
dneedham@rentonwa.gov

Or write to:
Greater Renton COAD
1055 S. Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057
ATT: Emergency Management