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?

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

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