Southeast PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (SEPA VOAD) is partnering with UCC Disaster Ministries, Lutheran Disaster Response and Eastwick United to recruit volunteers to repair and rebuild homes in the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia.



On August 4, 2020, during the pandemic, TS Isaias dumped seven inches of rain on parts of eastern Pennsylvania. Wind damage and tornadoes left hundreds of thousands without power and widespread severe flooding led to injuries as well as one storm-related fatality. Covid concerns have left significant unmet needs in the impacted areas and especially in the Eastwick section of Philadelphia which has the highest concentration of damage to both structures and mechanical systems.

We began receiving teams in July,2021 and are looking forward to including you in our rebuild efforts.

Disaster Event: Tropical Storm Isaias, Eastern PA

Project Focus: Repair and Rebuild

Contact: Judy Moore, Volunteer Coordinator 802-299-8290; IsaiasRecoveryVolunteers@gmail.com

Group Size: 2 to 5 member teams

Special Requirement: work groups need to include a skilled leader unless you come in August or September when we have skilled leaders on site

Minimum Age: 18

Accommodations: housing at Salt and Light Church in Philadelphia.

Cost: transportation, food

Tools: Please bring general carpentry tools and a substantial first aid kit

Donations are deductible and always welcome: It is estimated that $320,000 will be required to meet the rebuild needs of the Eastwick community. To date approximately 110,000 has been committed from many organizations including Eastwick Neighbors and Friends Coalition, The Salvation Army, UCC Disaster Ministries, Lutheran Disaster Response – Eastern PA, Disciples of Christ, the City of Philadelphia and a local Go Fund Me effort.

Please make your check to:
Eastwick Unmet Needs Roundtable with 'Eastwick Recovery' in the memo line.

Mail your check to:
Eastwick Unmet Needs Roundtable
St. Paul AME Church Ellwood
8398 Lindbergh Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19153

Other Information: Once contact is made with our Volunteer Coordinator you will be provided with all the necessary information including release forms, skill sheets for your group, contact information, arrival information. etc. You will also find information at
https://www.ucc.org/volunteer/disaster_disaster-volunteers/

Educational/Advocacy Components:

- "Mission Trips That Matter" by Don C. Richter, Upper Room Books
- On-Site Reflection: "Meeting God in the Ruins: Devotions for Disaster Volunteers." Free copies may be ordered from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by calling 800.638.3522 ext. 2580 (ISBN 6-0001-6788-1); pay shipping only.
- Follow-Up Action: Help your local community prepare for possible disaster and response. Be sure your congregation has a plan in case of local disaster (see https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/A-Disaster-Preparedness-Manual-for-Churches.pdf). Get to know your UCC Conference Disaster Coordinator and stay involved.