Illinois Conference
United Church of Christ
STRONGER TOGETHER

Urgent Need for Volunteers in Chicago

Disaster Response Request

***Rev. Roger Dart**, Conference Disaster Coordinator*

DISASTER MINISTRIES
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

There is a current need for individuals or groups of volunteer workers in Cicero, Berwyn, and the Austin neighborhoods of Chicago.

In June / July of this year, extremely heavy rainfall caused flooding of homes and basements in these communities. FEMA and the Red Cross have received over 86,000 claims for damage, resulting in a precedent-setting FEDERAL Disaster Declaration for this event.

The Long Term Recovery Committees that will guide the recovery work have been formed. Now it is time for volunteer labor to come in and do the tough and difficult work!

In a direct conversation with the FEMA field supervisor for the flooding event of June 29-July 2 of this year, I learned that there is an immediate need for volunteer workers to accomplish the "muck out" stage of the recovery process.

Groups of 10 - 20 volunteers are recommended.

THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR HOUSING FOR VOLUNTEER WORKERS.

Typical space needs for volunteer groups staying overnight in the area.

1. A room for men's sleeping space and another room for women's sleeping space. Groups often bring their own cots/bedding but having beds available is a bonus.
2. A kitchen for cooking the team's meals.
3. Bathrooms.
4. Shower facilities if possible.
5. An operations room to use that won't be interrupted during their stay.
6. Safe parking area for a tool trailer as they often bring their own tools and supplies.

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