



THE VISION: To see the local church be the hands and feet of Jesus in caring for their community after any local disaster.

- Hundreds or thousands of Christians in the streets ministering to the needs of people IMMEDIATELY after any disaster! ...being the hands and feet of Jesus! ...seeking out the needy and vulnerable!
- Thousands of meals, thousands of bags of groceries, etc.
- Prayer teams across the county
- The elderly, the disabled, the children, the single mothers, and your neighbors cared for!
- Changing the image of the Church in our culture
- No people being found a week after the hurricane, no people with no place to turn, no people wondering if anyone cares...
- Setting a model for other counties
- The Church filling the gap so the WHOLE county can be cared for

MISSION: To educate and train the local church in how to best care for their community after a disaster and facilitate the networking of churches with each other and the government in disaster relief.

1. TO CREATE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS THROUGHOUT A COUNTY

It is difficult for many of us to think in terms of neighborhood ministry. We immediately start thinking of specialization (e.g. "Our church will do this and the next church will do the other"). In times of disaster, communication is difficult and sometimes virtually non-existent and people don't know where the help is. Many people no longer have cars; people wait for hours in a line for ice and water... The idea of people going to one site for ice and water and another site for another kind of help is extremely frustrating and sometimes almost impossible for people who are already hot, confused, distraught, and may not have the transportation.

Hence, we move into a neighborhood concept. People come to the *church (or their chosen facility) where they are helped in whatever way is needed and in whatever ways the church is prepared. They get a meal, get some groceries, get answers to questions about FEMA or where they can find help for their baby who needs special formula. They get prayer, an encouraging word, and find that there are people who are interested in THEM as individuals, not just as a number or one in a line of 4000 people.

2. TO CREATE A NETWORK OF CHURCHES

Network of Hope coordinates and facilitates the mobilization of all churches within a county, regardless of their role in post-disaster response.

- We provide a network so the churches know each other, train together, dialogue with each other, and work together in their response after a disaster.

What We Do: Vision & Mission

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- We provide a network between the churches and the local Emergency Management, County Agencies and officials, and provide a voice for the Christian Community in the County Government.
- NOH establishes relationships and coordination with other organizations in disaster relief/response.

3. TO EDUCATE, TRAIN, CONSULT, AND PROVIDE RESOURCES

We work with individual churches to facilitate the development of a comprehensive plan to minister to their neighborhood or to a **neighborhood or their choice. We provide training and support for the Church Disaster Response Coordinator, the Team Leaders, and the Team Members/Responders through local training workshops, seminars, and round table discussions.

* In some neighborhoods where there are several small churches, they may choose to create a joint "Neighborhood Center"

** In this century where the congregations of a local church often come from a wide geographical area, some churches will choose a different neighborhood as their focal point for response. This might be a high-risk neighborhood or a depressed neighborhood without adequate resources.

4. TO PROMOTE PERSONAL CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FACE OF DISASTER

We cannot properly respond to the community if we are not prepared for disaster both personally and as a church. We facilitate the education of congregations on their personal Christian responsibilities in the face of disaster.