



Tips for Giving During a Disaster

- **Protect yourself from fraud:** Always pay by check or credit card, NEVER with cash. DO NOT provide your credit card number unless you know the charity and you initiate the contact. **Only donate through recognized organizations.** You are welcome to utilize the services of any Community Foundation to help channel your donations. Fake Facebook pages dedicated to a cause, crowdfunding sites, blogs, and websites that purport to tell the story of a suffering victim are among the most common. Unlike public charities that are required to disclose their finances annually with the Internal Revenue Service, someone who runs a crowdfunding campaign isn't required to disclose how they use the raised funds.
- **Ask the experts:** If you are considering supporting an organization positioned to work in an affected area, research. Local Community Foundations have insights into nonprofits that are best suited to respond in a particular community. The Center for Disaster Philanthropy also lists organizations working in affected communities.
- **Focus on long-term recovery:** Immediate needs like food and shelter are urgent, but full recovery takes time. Planning for ongoing support is crucial as more needs emerge over time.
- **Private philanthropy can fill gaps:** Private donations can address unmet needs and support innovative solutions that prevent or mitigate future disasters, fill in gaps, and are flexible to work in many partnering roles.
- **Align disaster giving with your personal passion:** You can contribute by addressing specific areas like education or health for affected communities. You can do this directly to vetted and established nonprofits or through grant-funding organizations that support those efforts, Community Foundations can direct your gift.

Disaster Philanthropy: Phases of Support

1. **Immediate Relief:** Provides essentials like food, shelter, and medical care right after a disaster.
2. **Short-term Recovery:** As media attention fades, donations support services like temporary housing, health services, and safe water.
3. **Long-term Rebuilding:** This phase focuses on restoring infrastructure and rebuilding lives through strategic investments, often years after the disaster.

Each of these stages is critical in rebuilding communities once disaster strikes. You can choose to support any or all of these stages of relief, recovery, and rebuilding.