

NALC Disaster Response to Hurricane Helene

By Mary Bates

NALC Disaster Response Coordinator

On Sept. 27 Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida, near Perry, Florida, where NALC Disaster Response has been working since Hurricane Idalia struck there in 2022. The Category 4 hurricane was primarily a wind event, causing many homes to lose their roofs and destroying a lot of property.



Hurricane Helene then proceeded across Florida and into Georgia, spawning tornadoes and flooding across eastern Georgia.

Hurricane Helene then traveled across South Carolina and North Carolina, causing trillions of gallons of water to flood the entire western portion of North Carolina. Thirty inches of rain dropped within 12 hours on western North Carolina, devastating 25 counties. There are over 300,000 plus families who have registered for FEMA assistance. There have been nearly 300 fatalities and about 90 people are missing.

NALC Disaster Response was on the ground in North Carolina on Sunday Sept. 29, delivering emergency relief supplies.

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NALC Disaster Response and NALC congregations have made deliveries of our emergency relief. Supplies have gone to Perry, Florida; Tallahassee, Florida; Douglas, Georgia; Greeneville Tennessee; and to the North Carolina communities of Asheville, Creston, Wilkesboro, Marion, Vilas, Cashiers, Clyde, Burnsville, Swannanoa, and Edneyville.

Our volunteers have been able to load this many 26foot box trucks, thanks to our amazing congregations who keep our warehouses throughout the eastern United States so well stocked. Twenty four (24) deliveries have been made.

NALC Disaster Response provided 800 Thanksgiving Day meals and over 10,000 new toys for Christmas were provided to the children of North Carolina.

Our congregations in the Carolinas have done a tremendous job of reaching out and responding to communities in 29 counties.



In my 27 years of coordinating disaster response, Hurricane Helene is the most devastating disaster that I have worked. I worked Hurricane Katrina for three years, however, the devastation was condensed. This current disaster is so widespread that recovery will take years.

To schedule a mission trip in 2025, please contact Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response coordinator, at 740-509-1132 or disasterresponse@thenalc.org. As we move into long term recovery, please pray for the thousands of families impacted.

Flood buckets, disaster response kits and supplies should go to your area disaster warehouse or sent to: NALC Disaster Response, 16500 Noble Ave., Caldwell, Ohio 43724.

Monetary donations may be made online at thenalc.org/giving or mailed to:

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