Strategic Plan

Problem we aim to address

There are other organizations doing disaster relief. However, these organizations are generally top-down, bureaucratic, and charity-based. At best, they give what is needed physically, but still don’t offer meaningful participation and empowerment through respect of survivor’s agency following a disaster. There is a need for flexible, grassroots help that doesn’t assume everybody’s needs are the same or that they know best what a community needs, but instead acts humbly, asking, listening, and responding. Disaster victims and survivors need to be part of a communal recovery. Survivors and victims of disasters need to have a say in what their needs are and how best others can assist them. There is a need for quick, effective and efficient distribution of aid without bureaucratic barriers following disasters.

Goals

Goal 1: For victims and survivors of disasters to feel empowered by being part of a communal recovery.

Goal 2: For victims and survivors of disaster to have their basic survival needs met.

Goal 3: For victims and survivors of disaster to have places that are livable, safe to occupy and more resilient.

Strategies

A network of volunteers will be established and maintained. The volunteers will go through orientation and training. Following a disaster, volunteers will go door to door, asking questions and listening to people at their homes and in the streets, discovering what the community members’ needs and priorities are. When possible, these needs will be met immediately, overcoming bureaucracy and red tape.
Purchase or rent trucks, map out affected area, get supplies donated. Distribute the supplies.

Have supplies distribution coordinators, establish connections with larger, wholesale relief groups and other suppliers. Locate places to set up distribution centers. Distribute supplies.

Investigate who the community organizations and local churches are. Contact them, offering to repair their buildings in exchange for their temporary use. Repair buildings. Set up community centers in those places where community members can help themselves. Inform the community about this (their) resource.

Establish and maintain a network of volunteers. The volunteers will go through extensive training and orientation. Families with houses in need of repair will be contacted. Volunteers will repair and restore these houses. Churches and schools in need of assistance will be located. Volunteers will repair and restore these needed community spaces.

Contribute to resiliency by pioneering the use of sustainable design in the relief and recovery efforts involving five different eco-friendly initiatives in the first six months following a disaster.

Increase our mobile infrastructure to offer even more to survivors of disasters.